

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, urges you to continue to advance H.R. 3309, the "Innovation Act," through the legislative process.

The Chamber strongly supports the protection of legitimate intellectual property rights. The patent system fosters innovations and economic growth across a wide variety of industries. The ability for legitimate patent holders to defend their intellectual property is vital to keeping U.S. businesses strong and competitive—both domestically and globally.

The Chamber is also acutely aware of the problems associated with excessive and abusive patent litigation. In too many instances, elements of the plaintiffs' bar leverage the potentially astronomical cost of patent litigation to force abusive and coercive settlements. The Chamber's particular concern is driven by the increasing prevalence of third party litigation financing to fund frivolous and abusive patent cases, the increased use of procedural maneuvers designed to further escalate the cost of litigation and force settlements, and the plaintiffs' bar's use of patent demand letters to extract settlements from innocent users and sellers of a product. H.R. 3309 would address these very real patent litigation problems and the Chamber looks forward to working with the House and Senate to further refine the solutions to these specific concerns as the bill continues to move through the legislative process.

The Chamber is cognizant of the various concerns raised by elements of the business community with H.R. 3309. Before any patent litigation reform legislation is ultimately enacted into law, these concerns must be addressed. We believe that the best way to accomplish this goal is for the House to advance legislation through regular order and work with the Senate to alleviate any remaining concerns with the bill.

The Chamber looks forward to working with the House, Senate, and other interested stakeholders as H.R. 3309 moves through the legislative process in order to ensure that demonstrable patent litigation abuses are addressed appropriately, while preserving America's strong tradition of protecting intellectual property rights.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten