



AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY®

November 19, 2013

Dear House Judiciary Committee Chairman Goodlatte:

On behalf of more than two million Americans for Prosperity activists in all 50 states, I write in support of your legislation reforming the patent litigation process. The Innovation Act, H.R.3309, would improve patents so that they stimulate, not stifle, innovation.

Many aspects of the current patent system discourage innovation, the very activity it's intended to protect. Poorly-issued, overly-broad patents lead to patent trolling, which diverts resources away from productive activities (e.g., inventing new technologies) and toward non-productive ones (e.g., excessive litigation). According to a Boston University study, patent trolling costs the economy approximately \$29 billion each year.

Your legislation would reduce patent trolls by requiring higher levels of detail from plaintiffs, shifting the discovery costs, and improving patent ownership transparency. One notable change is establishing a “loser pays” system, which will discourage trolls from pursuing broad lawsuits of dubious validity.

Although the Innovation Act, H.R.3309, stops short of comprehensive reform, it is a commendable step in the right direction. Americans for Prosperity supports your legislation. I urge your colleagues to approve its passage, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Christine Harbin Hanson
Federal Affairs Manager
Americans for Prosperity

Americans for Prosperity® (AFP) is a nationwide organization of citizen leaders committed to advancing every individual's right to economic freedom and opportunity. AFP believes reducing the size and scope of government is the best safeguard to ensuring individual productivity and prosperity for all Americans. AFP educates and engages citizens in support of restraining state and federal government growth and returning government to its constitutional limits. AFP has more than 2 million members, including members in all 50 states, and 36 state chapters and affiliates. More than 90,000 Americans in all 50 states have made a financial investment in AFP or AFP Foundation. For more information, visit www.americansforprosperity.org. Americans for Prosperity does not support or oppose candidates for public office.

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