

December 3, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The **broad-ranging group of undersigned industries and main street American businesses**, responsible for tens of millions of U.S. jobs and hundreds of billions of dollars in economic activity, **support passage of the Innovation Act of 2013** (H.R. 3309). We believe this legislation aims to address the widespread abuses of the legal system by certain patent assertion entities, commonly referred to as patent trolls.

During this time of economic need, we believe enactment of H.R. 3309 is integral to curbing frivolous and costly patent litigation that currently hinders our ability to innovate, create jobs and promote positive economic growth. Such frivolous lawsuits by patent trolls are an expensive distraction for many diverse, mainstream American industries, and the staggering growth of patent troll activity in recent years has caused our businesses to receive thousands of threatening demand letters and forced more than 7,000 lawsuits (a 400% increase since 2006), costing the U.S. economy more than \$80 billion in 2011 alone.

Simply, patent trolls do not innovate, create jobs or promote economic growth. **Our businesses do.**

To make clear, **patent trolls no longer only threaten large technology companies**. In 2012, patent trolls filed more lawsuits against small and medium-sized *non-tech* businesses than against tech companies. The many targets of this abuse, ranging from food providers, retail stores and media companies to financial institutions, hotels, gaming entertainment companies and other industries that drive the U.S. economy, have been left with no choice but to defend themselves through inefficient and burdensome processes, rarely avoiding costly litigation. We believe American businesses must be able to defend against these consequential attacks more efficiently and less expensively.

While we recognize there may be no single solution that addresses all complexities surrounding our nation's patent process, but one thing is clear: **The Innovation Act of 2013 has significant bipartisan support on Capitol Hill and throughout many sectors, small and large, of the American business community**. This broad support and willingness to work together is a true testament to its importance and we urge House passage of H.R. 3309.

Sincerely:

*Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers*  
*American Association of Advertising Agencies*  
*American Gaming Association*  
*American Hotel & Lodging Association*  
*Coalition for Patent Fairness*  
*Competitive Carriers Association*  
*Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America*  
*International Franchise Association*  
*MPA – The Association of Magazine Media*  
*National Association of Broadcasters*  
*National Restaurant Association*  
*Newspaper Association of America*  
*Online Publishers Association*  
*Overstock.com, Inc.*  
*Printing Industries of America*  
*The R Street Institute*  
*U.S. Travel Association*

CC: The Honorable Eric Cantor  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Jim Clyburn  
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
The Honorable John Conyers  
The Honorable John Kline  
The Honorable George Miller  
The Honorable Fred Upton  
The Honorable Henry Waxman  
The Honorable Jeb Hensarling  
The Honorable Maxine Waters  
The Honorable Sam Graves  
The Honorable Nydia Velazquez  
The Honorable Bill Shuster  
The Honorable Nick Rahall  
The Honorable Dave Camp  
The Honorable Sandy Levin