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June 1, 2015

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy:

On behalf of the 1.1 million members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (NAR), I write in support of S. 1137, the “Protecting American Talent and Entrepreneurship Act (PATENT Act).” NAR views the reforms in this bill as a meaningful way to protect American businesses from broad claims of patent infringement based on patents of questionable validity.

NAR, whose members identify themselves as REALTORS®, represents a wide variety of real estate industry professionals. REALTORS® have been early adopters of technology and are industry innovators who understand that consumers today are seeking real estate information and services that are fast, convenient and comprehensive. Increasingly, technology innovations are driving the delivery of real estate services and the future of REALTORS® businesses. As a result, NAR members know firsthand that “patent trolls” divert significant time and money from their businesses and strongly support legislation to curb patent troll abuses.

Without needed reforms that assure that asserted patent rights are legitimate, the ability of businesses owned by REALTORS®, many of which are small businesses, to grow, innovate and better serve modern consumers will be put at risk.

REALTORS® continue to experience the pain that patent trolls inflict as they continue to file lawsuits at historically high rates, forcing our members large and small to divert resources that could otherwise go towards innovation and growth. The comprehensive reforms proposed in the PATENT Act will strengthen and restore an essential balance to the patent litigation system that has been urgently needed for years.

Parties across the political and economic spectrum agree that the problems caused by patent trolls and abusive patent litigation must be addressed. A diverse group of businesses, consumer groups, legal scholars, economists, state legislatures and attorney generals have all come out in support of strong patent reform legislation.

REALTORS® thank you for this important work and look forward to working with you to see a bill passed this year.

Sincerely,



Chris Polychron
2015 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary

