

SIIA Reacts to U.S. Senate Passage of Patent Reform Legislation

Washington, D.C. (March 9, 2011) – The Software and Information Industry Association (SIIA), the principal trade association for the software and digital content industries, appreciates the work of the U.S. Senate on S. 23, the America Invents Act (formerly the Patent Reform Act of 2011), and the improvements to the bill that were made through amendments. While we look forward to addressing several remaining concerns with the legislation as it moves to the House, its passage by the Senate is important progress toward patent reform -- particularly because it ends patent fee diversion. SIIA will continue to seek improvements in the legislation, including:

- removing or altering the inter partes provision, which does not have consensus within the technology industry in its current form;
- altering the language in the "tax strategy" provision. The current version of the provision could be interpreted as invalidating hundreds or more patents that are critical to financial service industry companies and likely violates the United States' obligations under TRIPs; and
- adding prior user rights to the "first inventor to file" provision.

SIIA looks forward to consideration of the bill in the House of Representatives, which has also dedicated years of bipartisan work toward patent reform. SIIA congratulates the Senate on this milestone and will continue to work with Congress to ensure that the legislation promotes job creation, innovation and competitiveness in the software and digital content industries.

About SIIA

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection to more than 500 leading software and information companies. For further information, visit: www.siiia.net.