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**Michael J. Lynch**  
Vice President  
Government Affairs



June 29, 2011

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the employees of Illinois Tool Works (ITW), especially the 1200+ members of our ITW Patent Society, I urge you to support Senate passage of HR 1249 **as is**, as soon as possible. Senator Grassley, having had the opportunity to visit ITW production facilities in Iowa, I'm sure you have seen firsthand the economic value strong and defensible patents can bring to even the smallest of our communities.

ITW is a strong supporter of comprehensive patent reform, and as such we greatly appreciate the efforts of both the Senate and House in developing legislation that will modernize our patent system for the first time in decades. Thank you for your enduring efforts to negotiate and pass S 23 in the Senate earlier this year. We recognize, however, that the legislative process requires compromise among all parties, including Members of both the House and Senate and among stakeholder groups. As a result, we also support HR 1249, as passed by the House, and believe the surest way to accomplish much-needed patent reform is for that measure to be passed **as is** by the Senate.

With the agreement reached in the House regarding USPTO funding, and with the willingness expressed already by both House and Senate Appropriators to implement the agreement, we are persuaded that fees paid by inventors will be available to the USPTO without fear of diversion. Therefore, we believe passage of the House bill is the appropriate action.

Thank you for your dedication to this process, and your many contributions to the legislation that is currently pending. I urge you to work with Senate leadership to enact HR 1249 as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Lynch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.