

June 30, 2011

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

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

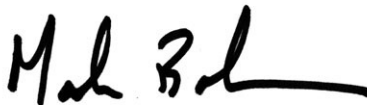
I am writing on behalf of Red Hat, Inc., to express our support for Senate acceptance of H.R. 1249, as passed by the House, and to thank you for your leadership and hard work on patent reform over the years.

As the most successful company predicated on delivering critical mission open source software to enterprises and governments around the world, Red Hat, Inc. faces significant challenges from “non-practicing entities” (NPE's) whose goal is not promotion of innovation, but instead use of a broken patent litigation system and poor quality patents to reap financial rewards from those entities working to create jobs and grow our nation's economy.

While both the House and Senate versions of the patent reform bills do not fully address several important issues to Red Hat, Inc., the House passed bill represents an important opportunity to improve the patent system at the present time and we support its passage by the Senate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,



Mark Bohannon
General Counsel &
Senior Vice President, Public Policy