



# VentureOhio

ADVANCING OHIO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

May 20, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

VentureOhio is the unified voice for the capital sources and other organizations that finance or support high growth companies based in Ohio and that seek to make Ohio a preferred location for high potential entrepreneurial activity. We collaborate with state and local officials, major corporations, foundations, universities, and service providers to strengthen Ohio's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

H.R. 9, the "Innovation Act", has important implications to the mission of VentureOhio and its members. While we fully support the goal of reigning in the abuse of the patent system, we must maintain inventors' rights to protect their innovations and intellectual property rights. We support an approach that specifically targets the individuals and entities that are abusing the system. We are concerned that H.R. 9, if enacted as written, will have a chilling effect on investment in patent-intensive companies and it will make it more difficult, risky and expensive for early-stage companies to enforce their patents. Further, H.R. 9 will raise the cost and risk incurred by smaller companies, and their investors, who try to defend against patent litigation brought by larger competitors.

VentureOhio does not support the current version of H.R. 9 and its overly broad provisions. We urge you and your colleagues to revise the current bill and work to craft legislation that targets abusive patent litigation but still protects our nation's innovators and their ideas, discoveries, and inventions.

VentureOhio and its members stand ready to assist Congress as it deals with the issues of patent litigation reform in the days ahead.

Thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,

John McIlwraith  
Chairman  
VentureOhio

cc: Ohio Congressional Delegation