



National Association of Federal Credit Unions
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B. Dan Berger
Executive Vice President
Government Affairs

September 6, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support H.R. 1249, the *Leahy-Smith America Invents Act*

Dear Leader Reid and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU), the only national trade association that exclusively represents the interests of our nation's federal credit unions, I am writing to urge the Senate to invoke cloture and pass H.R. 1249, the *Leahy-Smith America Invents Act*.

This bill represents important reform to the patent system, including a NAFCU supported program that provides an alternative to costly, spurious litigation of poor quality business method patents. We urge the Senate to keep intact the House-passed language of this important section – Section 18 - if amendments are considered on the Senate floor. This language will provide important relief to credit unions and all financial institutions by making it faster and cheaper to prove that a patent should have never been issued if they are sued for infringement of a poor quality business method patent.

It is with these facts in mind that we urge the Senate to invoke cloture and pass H.R. 1249, the *Leahy-Smith America Invents Act*. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If my staff or I can be of assistance to you, or if you have any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact myself, or NAFCU's Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Brad Thaler, at (703) 842-2204.

Sincerely,

B. Dan Berger
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs

cc: Members of the United States Senate