



Computer & Communications Industry Association

1972-2012: 40 YEARS OF TECH ADVOCACY

May 22, 2013

The Honorable Charles Schumer
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

CCIA applauds your introduction of the Patent Quality Improvement Act of 2013. American industry needs leadership such as yours to help raise the quality of patents being issued by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. American innovators are entitled to high-quality patents to encourage entrepreneurship and support innovation; in contrast, patent assertion entities (or PAEs) are harming the American economy using vague, low-quality patents.

PAEs have recently branched out from suing large businesses to suing everyone from retailers to grocers to individual software developers. PAEs rely on the enormous cost of defending against patent infringement to obtain settlements, taking advantage of legal rules intended to protect research investments as their means of extortion.

In particular, PAEs often use business method patents, which are frequently difficult to understand, overbroad and easy to abuse through creative interpretation. The Covered Business Method review in Section 18 of America Invents Act has been a successful way to address problematic patents targeting the financial industry. The PQIA will bring this success to other industries as well, which we believe is a very positive step.

We look forward to working with you on the Act as it moves through the Senate.

Thank you for your efforts on addressing the problem of low-quality business method patents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Black', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ed Black
President & CEO
Computer & Communications Industry Association