

June 14, 2006

James C. Greenwood
President & CEO

The Honorable Darrell Issa
211 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Issa:

I write on behalf of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) to commend your sponsorship of, and express our support for, H.R. 5418, which would establish a pilot program in certain United States district courts to enhance the education and expertise of district court judges in the area of patent law.

BIO represents more than 1,100 biotechnology companies, academic institutions and state biotechnology centers in all 50 states. Our members are involved in the research and development of healthcare, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products.

The biotechnology industry relies heavily on the strength of its patents to spur the discovery and development of new medicines and diagnostics, agricultural products, and other breakthrough technologies that are the hallmark of biotechnology. In the healthcare sector, the biotechnology industry has produced more than 300 biotech drugs, vaccines and medical diagnostic tests that have helped more than 325 million people worldwide. Innovations in agricultural biotechnology are growing the economy worldwide by simultaneously increasing food supplies, reducing pesticide damage to the environment, conserving natural resources of land water and nutrients and increasing farm income. Industrial biotechnology innovations have led to cleaner processes that produce less waste and use less energy. These processes are paving the way toward the creation of new, alternative forms of energy, and ultimately toward energy independence. None of these successes would be possible without strong and predictable patent protection.

Patents are used by small biotechnology companies to generate investor interest and attract corporate partners; and they are used by larger biotechnology companies to protect against copying of products and services that have taken decades and hundreds of millions of dollars to develop. Consequently, a judiciary

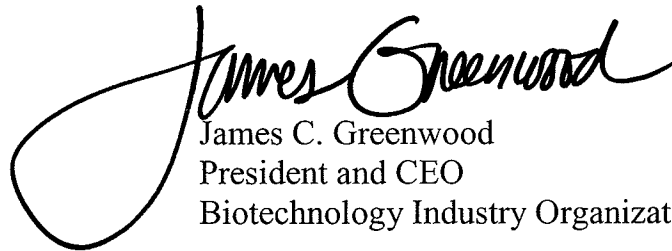
educated and trained to effectively and efficiently address patent cases will benefit the biotechnology industry and, in turn, the public who benefits from the fruits of biotechnology innovation.

BIO supports H.R. 5418 and your efforts to provide the district courts with resources and training to reduce error rates in patent cases, and to help reduce the high cost and lost time associated with patent litigation.

As this bill moves forward through the legislative process, BIO would encourage you to consider adding safeguards to the bill that would ensure that the handling of patent cases in a particular judicial district does not become too concentrated among a small number of judges and that a varied pool of experienced jurists are participating in the program created by the legislation.

BIO is supportive of your efforts to improve the quality of, and reduce the cost and lost time associated with, patent litigation, and we offer our assistance in moving this legislation through Congress. If you have questions, please contact Brent Del Monte, BIO's Vice President for Federal Government Relations, at 202-962-9200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Greenwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning of the word "James".

James C. Greenwood
President and CEO
Biotechnology Industry Organization