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The Patent Reform Act of 2010, being debated in the 111th Congress, promises to be another legislative fiasco because the "reforms" ot proposes are not real reforms. Rather, the draft bill (S. 515) recently reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee is a compromise between big computer companies (the so-called "Gang of 15," which includes the likes of Microsoft and Intel) and Big Pharma. Universities, independent inventors and small businesses – America's true inventors and job creators – were almost totally squeezed out of the discussions. In four years of hearings, the Judiciary Committee did not invite a single inventor to testify.

The resulting bill, if passed, will weaken our patent system, making patents less valuable and more difficult to enforce, and ultimately will hurt national innovation and job creation.

The inexplicable Reform Act is that it does not even attempt to address the most fundamental problems in our patent system. Conceived by the Founding Fathers, with its source in the U.S. Constitution, the patent system reflects the economic realities of the Industrial Revolution – not the knowledge economy of the 21st century.

tions in all industries, regardless of the product life cycles prevalent in those industries.

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to both a new drug and a computer invention. This one-size-fits-all approach no longer works. We need difTo * 9 ardless of exclusivity for difTo * 9 arindustries with radically difTo * 9 arproduct life cycles and a Patent OfTice that is capable of examining patent applications within one year.patent system, which,rincidentally9 stems from the same one-size-fits-all approach,ris the problem of patent quality or9 more

es the ma Multi-tier system is needed for the 21st century