



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION of  
REALTORS®

Gary Thomas  
2013 President

Dale A. Stinton  
Chief Executive Officer

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION**

Jerry Giovaniello, Senior Vice President  
Gary Weaver, Vice President  
Joe Ventrone, Vice President  
Jamie Gregory, Deputy Chief Lobbyist

500 New Jersey Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2020  
Ph. 202-383-1194 Fax 202-3837580  
www.REALTOR.org

June 11, 2013

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

Dear Senator Schumer:

On behalf of the more than one million members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (NAR), we wish to thank you for the introduction of S. 866, the “Patent Quality Improvement Act.” We view the reforms in this bill as a meaningful way to protect innovators from broad claims of patent infringement based on patents of questionable validity all brought by non-practicing entities.

NAR, whose members identify themselves as REALTORS®, represents a wide variety of real estate industry professionals. REALTORS® have been early adopters of technology and are industry innovators who understand that consumers today are seeking real estate information and services that are fast, convenient and comprehensive. Increasingly, technology innovations are driving the delivery of real estate services and the future of REALTORS® businesses.

As technology users, NAR and several of its members recently faced onerous patent infringement litigation over questionable patents dealing with location based search capabilities. These suits were brought by patent holding companies and other non-practicing entities. The suit was eventually settled in a multi-million dollar settlement. Currently many of our broker members are the targets of the “Project Paperless” patent trolling scheme. They have received demand letters for the use of scanner copiers. As a result, NAR members know firsthand that “patent trolls” divert significant time and money from their businesses and strongly support legislation to curb patent troll abuses.

Without needed reforms that assure that asserted patent rights are legitimate, the ability of businesses owned by REALTORS®, many of which are small businesses, to grow, innovate and better serve modern consumers will be put at risk. NAR believes that while curbing questionable patent litigation is a needed reform, improving patent system transparency and patent quality are equally important. While we recognize that the Patent Trademark Office (PTO) has taken important steps to improve the system, more work is needed.

We welcome the introduction of the Patent Quality Improvement Act and look forward to working with you to create needed reforms to the patent system that will truly promote innovation and expand job creation.

Sincerely,

Gary Thomas  
2013 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: Senate Judiciary Committee



REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark which may be used only by real estate professionals who are members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and subscribe to its strict Code of Ethics.