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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103

September 19, 2011

Mr. Franklin R. Dillman  
2273 County Road 54 West  
Notasulga, Alabama 36866

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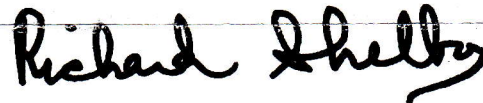
Dear Mr. Dillman:

Thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding H.R. 1249, the "Leahy-Smith America Invents Act." I always appreciate hearing from my constituents.

H.R. 1249, was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Lamar Smith on March 30, 2011. This bill passed the House and was received in the Senate on June 23, 2011. On September 9, 2011, the "Leahy-Smith America Invents Act" passed the Senate with my support by a vote of 89 to 9. Once signed by the President, this bipartisan legislation will make significant reforms to U.S. patent laws, including switching from a first-to-invent system to first-to-file. It also establishes a one-year grace period for inventors to file patent applications after disclosing the invention. A full text version and a summary of the legislation can be found online at [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov).

Again, thank you for contacting me. If I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,



Richard Shelby

RCS/jrs