



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF INVENTORS' ASSOCIATIONS**

**Established in 1968 ♦ Members from 88 countries (2011)**

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To: Mr. Barack H. Obama  
The President of the USA  
The White House  
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to extend the warmest greetings in the name of the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA). IFIA gathers its member inventors and inventor organizations from 88 countries. We all believe that you will bring prosperity to the United States, and beyond.

Patent protection for inventions is of ultimate importance for inventors personally and for innovation in general. In this regard we, inventors around the world, were faced with a major roadblock: The difference of the patent priority system in the USA ('first to invent'), and the system in other countries ('first to file'). The 'first to invent' priority was rooted in more than two centuries of US tradition, while the 'first to file' tradition is more recent, albeit more widespread. This difference made it impossible to unify patent priority globally – until last Friday. On the 16th of September 2011 you have signed the America Invents Act, that paves the way for a transition from 'first to invent' to 'first to file' in the USA. Thus the USA accepted the principle of 'first to file'.

Dear Mr. President, let me express applause and the deepest of acknowledgements from the international inventor movement for passing the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. This is truly a historical milestone. I believe that this act will be the beginning of the creation of a real world patent, instead of the current country-by-country system of today.

I believe that a true sign of a great nation is the ability to rethink traditions. Thanks to you, thanks to America!

Sincerely yours,

András Vedres president