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The Honorable Robert Goodlatte
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

On behalf of Pfizer, I am writing to express our opposition to H.R. 9, the Innovation Act.

Innovation is the core of our work at Pfizer; we have been and remain committed to finding cures for the many diseases afflicting our population. We developed and produced a vaccine at the turn of the 20th century that contributed to the world wide eradication of small pox. In 1944, Pfizer's ability to mass produce penicillin helped save the lives of thousands of troops who were injured during the Allied invasion of Normandy. In the decades since, we have led the way in bringing to the market advances in treatments for heart disease, infections, cancer, depression, and pain.

Our ability to continue bringing new treatments for disease has changed dramatically over the past 20 years, due in large part to technological advances such as the mapping of the human genome and our fundamentally better understanding of human biology. These advances have enabled researchers to develop new therapies targeted at a variety of diseases with large unmet medical needs. Now we are able to utilize tools like biomarkers and surrogate endpoints to help us demonstrate the safety and efficacy of a new product. We are working toward a future where R&D is consistently delivering important therapies for the patients who are counting on us. We have seen steady progress in our late stage pipeline that includes promising clinical data, regulatory approvals, and new product launches.

The only way for that innovation to continue is by ensuring we have a strong patent system that protects our intellectual property and allows us to stop infringement of our patents. Unfortunately, H.R. 9 as passed by the Committee will have a significant negative impact on our ability to protect and defend against patent infringers by raising the bar for plaintiffs in patent infringement cases to a degree that will not only disadvantage large companies but small ones as well who often lack the resources to bring such cases.

Before the bill moves forward, we urge you to make substantial changes to support innovation and access to health care that would allow companies like Pfizer to continue to deliver high-value medicines to improve patient health. In particular, we urge you to work with us on two issues: first to ensure that the intellectual property litigation reforms, such as the venue provision, are modified to ensure that they do not prevent long-standing patent owners from bringing suit in jurisdictions that have developed a significant expertise in addressing such suits and thereby impede the fair and expeditious resolution of legal actions in our industry; and second, to include changes to the post-grant review process (Inter Partes Review and Post-Grant Review) at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to avoid abusive practices targeting the biopharmaceutical patents and to ensure a fair and balanced process for patent holders.

Without these changes, Pfizer will continue to oppose H.R. 9 as it interferes with our mission: *Innovate to bring therapies to patients that significantly improve their lives.*

Sincerely,



Doug Lankler
General Counsel

CC: The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary