



H&R BLOCK®

10 February 2011

Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Grassley,

Our company has reviewed the language in Section 14 of the Patent Reform Act of 2011, now pending in Congress. Although H&R Block holds and is seeking numerous patents pertaining to methods of delivering tax advice and tax return preparation, H&R Block's inventions do not, by their nature, reduce, avoid, or defer tax liability. Therefore, at this time, we do not have any major concerns regarding the language in the Act that statutorily deems that all strategies for reducing, avoiding, or deferring tax liability are 'in the prior art' and not patentable. Nonetheless, we should mention that H&R Block is concerned about the precedent that this bill will set. Our fear is that Congress is going down the path where, in the future, it will simply declare "not patentable" any subject matter it deems to be unpopular or politically unfavorable.

Sincerely,



Brian Donohue
AVP, Government Relations