

Terry	Walden	Wolf
Thompson (PA)	Walsh (IL)	Womack
Thornberry	Webster	Woodall
Tiberi	West	Yoder
Tipton	Westmoreland	Young (FL)
Turner	Whitfield	Young (IN)
Upton	Wilson (SC)	
Walberg	Wittman	

## NOES—166

Ackerman	Hastings (FL)	Payne
Andrews	Heinrich	Peters
Baldwin	Higgins	Pingree (ME)
Bass (CA)	Himes	Polis
Becerra	Hinche	Price (NC)
Berkley	Hirono	Quigley
Berman	Hochul	Rahall
Bishop (NY)	Holt	Rangel
Blumenauer	Honda	Reyes
Brady (PA)	Hoyer	Richardson
Braley (IA)	Inslee	Richmond
Brown (FL)	Israel	Rothman (NJ)
Butterfield	Jackson (IL)	Roybal-Allard
Capps	Johnson, E. B.	Ruppersberger
Capuano	Jones	Rush
Carnahan	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Carney	Keating	Sánchez, Linda
Castor (FL)	Kildee	T.
Chu	Kind	Sanchez, Loretta
Cicilline	Kissell	Sarbanes
Clarke (MI)	Kucinich	Schakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Langevin	Schiff
Clay	Larsen (WA)	Schrader
Cleaver	Larson (CT)	Schwartz
Clyburn	Lee (CA)	Scott (VA)
Cohen	Levin	Scott, David
Connolly (VA)	Lewis (GA)	Serrano
Conyers	Lipinski	Sewell
Cooper	Loebsock	Sherman
Costello	Lofgren, Zoe	Shuler
Courtney	Lowe	Sires
Crowley	Lujan	Slaughter
Cummings	Lynch	Smith (WA)
Davis (CA)	Maloney	Speier
Davis (IL)	Markey	Stark
DeFazio	Matsui	Sutton
DeGette	McCarthy (NY)	Thompson (CA)
DeLauro	McCollum	Thompson (MS)
Deuth	McDermott	Tierney
Dingell	McGovern	Tonko
Doggett	McIntyre	Towns
Doyle	McNerney	Tsongas
Duncan (TN)	Meeks	Van Hollen
Edwards	Michaud	Velázquez
Ellison	Miller (NC)	Visclosky
Engel	Miller, George	Walz (MN)
Eshoo	Moran	Wasserman
Farr	Murphy (CT)	Schultz
Fattah	Nadler	Waters
Filner	Napolitano	Watt
Frank (MA)	Neal	Waxman
Fudge	Olver	Welch
Garamendi	Owens	Wilson (FL)
Grijalva	Pallone	Woolsey
Gutierrez	Pascrell	Wu
Hanabusa	Pastor (AZ)	Yarmuth

## NOT VOTING—12

Carson (IN)	Gingrey (GA)	Murphy (PA)
Cole	Granger	Pelosi
Dicks	Lummis	Stivers
Giffords	Moore	Young (AK)

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1930

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. LANDRY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 477 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

## RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROUN of Georgia) laid before the

House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Armed Services:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, June 22, 2011.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,  
Speaker of the House, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, I am writing to notify you of my resignation from the Armed Services Committee, effective June 22, 2011. I look forward to continuing to serve the Tampa Bay area and the State of Florida from the Energy and Commerce and Budget Committees in the 112th Congress.

Sincerely,

KATHY CASTOR,  
United States Representative,  
Florida District 11.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

## ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 321

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.—Ms. Castor of Florida.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2219, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. NUGENT, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-113) on the resolution (H. Res. 320) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1380

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 1380, the New Alternative Transportation to Give Americans Solutions Act of 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 1249.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

## AMERICA INVENTS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 316 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1249.

□ 1933

## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1249) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform, with Mr. GRAVES of Georgia in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

An initial period of general debate shall be confined to the question of the constitutionality of the bill and shall not exceed 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) or their designees.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, individuals who raise questions about the constitutionality of this legislation perhaps should review the Constitution itself. The Constitution expressly grants Congress the authority to "promote the progress of science and useful arts." That is precisely what this bill does. H.R. 1249 improves the patent system, ensuring the protection and promotion of intellectual property that spurs economic growth and generates jobs.

The bill's inclusion of a move to a first-inventor-to-file system is absolutely consistent with the Constitution's requirement that patents be awarded to the "inventor."

A recent letter by professors of law from across the country—from universities including Emory, Indiana, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, NYU, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Albany, Stanford, Chicago, Georgia, Richmond, Vanderbilt, and Washington—states that claims of unconstitutionality "cannot be squared with well-accepted and longstanding rules of current patent law." And