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From: Caron, Joan M. [mailto:Car[REDACTED] ]  
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 12:31 PM  
To: casewo[REDACTED]  
Cc: SoftwareRoundtab[REDACTED] ; ATR-LPS-PAEPublicComments  
Subject: patent trolling

Dear Patent and Trade Office:

As someone who has submitted an application for a patent, I realize it takes hard work, perseverance and an innovative and insightful thought process to reach the point of a patent application. We should be rewarding the innovators and not the patent trolls.

Patent trolls as you know, are the unknown entities who are doing none of the work, while attempting to garner all of the (illegitimate) credit. They stifle innovation and progress. This practice is crippling small technology companies that can't afford the lawsuits and often times end up shutting their doors for good or settling to avoid paying legal fees. The money spent on the litigation process should be spent towards innovation and developing new ideas.

As technology advances, patent reforms must keep up to protect today's tech industry. Specifically, we need protection from patent trolls who prey on our success. These patent trolls issue baseless lawsuits against small businesses leaving them with outrageous litigation costs. Last year patent trolls sued tech companies over 5,000 times. And the cost has reached almost \$ \$80 billion when all costs are taken in to account.

I look to you and your colleagues in Congress to find solutions to help small businesses reach success. Fix the flaws in our patent system that allow for patent trolls to destroy our country's smartest and brightest innovators.

Sincerely,

Joan M. Caron, PhD