

**From:** Sheryl Hardy [mailto:sheryl\_har[REDACTED] ]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2013 5:02 PM  
**To:** ATR-LPS-PAEPublicComments  
**Subject:** RE: FTC - Concerns over Patent Assertion Entities

Good Afternoon:

I wish to express my concerns over Patent Assertion Entities or patent Trolls as they are also known as. These firms are taking advantage of flaws in the nation's patent system allowing them to abuse and intimidate tech companies like smart start-ups and a wide range of other businesses.

Right now patent trolls are free to file as many frivolous lawsuits on patent infringement as they want. As a result of these baseless lawsuits, many small companies are forced to settle rather than pay millions on legal fees. These forced settlements take away money that could have been spent on development and job creation. In some cases – businesses are forced to close their doors.

I hope the FTC can be part of the solution to stop this.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Hardy

