From: Scott Randby [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 5:19 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Software Patents

 Dear USPTO:

I encourage you to abolish software patents completely. Every piece of software ever written is simply a mathematical algorithm and is therefore ineligible for patent protection. That software patents have been granted in the past is a great travesty of justice.

As a mathematician, I can say that software patents pose a great threat to mathematical research. If mathematical ideas are permitted to be patented, and software is nothing but a mathematical idea, then the process of mathematical research, which is several millenniums old, will
eventually cease. Mathematics requires the free dissemination and availability of mathematical ideas. Software patents, which are patents of ideas only, are antithetical to this long tradition which has permitted the development of the technology we enjoy today.

It is evident that all of software patents granted to this date fail to even come close to real patent eligibility. First and again, software is
a mathematical algorithm. Second, the vast majority of software granted a patent fails to meet the crucial originality standard. It has been trivial to find evidence of prior art when I have examined patented software.

It is clear that software patents are simply a tool used by some software companies to thwart competition and unfairly monopolize markets. These patents are unjustified by any standard, and they are against the interests of the people of America. Software patents should be abolished now.

Sincerely yours,
Scott P. Randby
Ravenna, Ohio