

**From:** Cristian Valbuena  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2013 11:51 AM  
**To:** SoftwareRoundtable2013  
**Subject:** Patent Trolls

To who it may concern,

As co-founder and CEO of Artsnapper, a start-up founded in 2012 that helps people discover art wherever they are located, I consider my business to be a part of New York's burgeoning tech economy in creating jobs.

Whether its users are seasoned art enthusiasts or new to the art world, Artsnapper provides anyone who wishes to learn about art with the ability to do so. Unfortunately, job creators like Hire Art are being threatened by frivolous patent claims and litigation by patent trolls.

While Artsnapper works diligently to democratize art, patent trolls aim to do just the opposite by threatening innovators with frivolous patent claims and litigation. These nameless, faceless entities only stifle innovation and progress. Small tech companies simply cannot afford the litigation, and often shut their doors for good or settle to avoid paying legal fees - instead of hiring engineers and investing in new value adding endeavors.

As technology advances, patent reforms must keep up to protect today's tech industry. Specifically, we need protection from patent trolls who prey on the success of others. These patent trolls issue baseless lawsuits against small businesses leaving them with outrageous legal costs. Just last year, patent trolls sued tech companies over 5,000 times. And when all costs are taken into account, these suits have cost tech companies almost \$80 billion.

My fear is that Artsnapper might fall victim to the systemic abuse caused by a patent troll that would not only put us out of business, but would also rob users around the world of a free resource. I now look to you and your colleagues in Congress to enact comprehensive patent reform that will make it possible for creative small businesses like Artsnapper to thrive and continue to grow.

Sincerely,

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