

Today I opened up the news and read of a proposal (Docket No.: PTO-P-2012-0012 I believe?) to keep some patent applications secret if they are "economically significant". As I understand it, this is to help close the gap between when a patent is filed and when it is granted. The thought being that another company can build and sell before the patent is granted.

I think this is pure hogwash. I think this is just another (incredibly blatant) example of lobbyists buying representation.

If we want to close the gap between filing and granting patents, lets actually do that. I believe we can significantly lower that time by rejecting most of the incredibly ridiculous patent applications that come to the USPTO.

We know that the patent system provides protection. We know that if a company doesn't want to disclose their inventions, they can simply not patent something and keep it a trade secret. We know people abuse the patent and copyright system to stifle competitors.

It sounds like this new proposal is just a power grab that is completely unneeded.

The entire point of the patent system is disclosure. Patents are not granted as reward for invention. They are granted as a reward for sharing that invention with the world.

Thank you,

Tony Diethelm