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As a follow up to my comments on the unaffordable cost of defending one's patent (February 28, 2012), please refer to the following news article from Great Britain.
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/yourbusiness/9130815/Inventor-fury-as-patents-prove-too-costly-to-defend.html>

This article, and other press sources, report a British inventor burning his patents as a protest of the unaffordable cost of defending his patents.

This same cost problem exists in the United States and needs to be addressed by the USPTO. Failure to do so will cause a decline in the legitimacy of the USPTO and the entire patent system.

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