

From: Charlie Weisel [e-mail redacted]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 7:01 PM  
To: 2014\_interim\_guidance  
Subject: 2014 Interim Guidance on Patent Subject Matter Eligibility

To the US Patent and Trademark Office:

this letter is in regard to your consideration of new policies that would allow patenting of substances that are naturally found in living things.

Patent law has always encouraged innovation and invention, as well as investment in new ideas. In order to be a patentable invention, a substance must be unique and not obvious to someone who is skilled in the art. Based on these two basic principles, I am asking you not to change the law to allow pharmaceutical companies to obtain patents on substances that are found in nature. That applies to concentrated forms and extracts of these substances.

Patents should be limited to new inventions that are unique, and not obvious to one skilled in the art. Mere discovery of natural substances, concentration of them, or new uses of them should not be eligible for patents. That would severely limit citizens' access to such substances, and research and experimentation, and move alternative health care into the realm of multi-billion dollar drug companies, which would be a very bad thing for all Americans.

They would undoubtedly use their vast financial resources to establish monopolies in the field of natural and alternative health care, in the same way they have a total monopoly in traditional medicine. If you open the door for them to claim ownership and rights to substances found in plants and foods, they will find ways to manipulate the legal system, litigate individuals and smaller companies out of business and make natural health care as expensive as their pharmaceutical drugs.

I'm urging you not to change patent laws to make it easier for drug companies to claim monopolies on naturally occurring substances, which should be available for anyone to use, for any purpose.

Thank you very much.

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