

Hello, I currently own a small business but I want to speak as an individual inventor, a single human being with ingenuity.

As a young, minority, female inventor and entrepreneur, I do not expect that my ingenuity will be rewarded by the US patent system.

The problems that my white, male counterparts have faced give me a sense of foreboding.

The real disparity that we need to address is one of financial resources and not of color or sex or veteran status.

After all, my mind and its abilities are not of a color or sex. However, I am of limited financial means as are many of my white, male, and non-veteran peers. And we all struggle to provide the world with something more than our wealthy, incumbent competitors can provide.

I don't expect to participate in the US patent system any further unless this financial disparity is addressed.

The USPTO should eliminate the IPR process for all of the patents initially filed by a small entity, a micro entity, and for inventor owned and controlled companies.

When large corporations undergo the IPR process they utilize less than 1% of their resources. When my peers of limited financial means undergo the IPR process then we face business and personal bankruptcy just to afford to defend ourselves. If we cannot scrounge up half a million for attorney fees then we cannot defend our patents. And there is nothing to gain even by a successful defense- we will end up spending half a million dollar just to maintain status quo and may still face personal and business bankruptcy.

We passed laws to lower fees for micro and small entities for the same reasons – the true disparity is of financial resources and means.