



THE CHAMBER

Reno·Sparks·Northern Nevada

March 20, 2013

Patent and Trademark Office

VIA EMAIL

SoftwareRoundtable2013@uspto.gov

RE: Response for comments on Patent Reform

To Whom it May Concern:

The Chamber of Reno, Sparks, and Northern Nevada understands how much our community benefits from the tech economy. At a time when jobs are hard to come by, the tech economy is spurring growth here at home, from giants like Apple to new startup companies sprouting every day.

But our members are concerned that patent trolls are getting in the way of new business and technology innovation. Patent trolls take advantage of flaws in our patent system allowing them to abuse and intimidate tech companies like small start-ups.

These companies need to be protected by our patent laws. Right now patent trolls are free to file as many frivolous lawsuits on patent infringement as they want. As a result of these baseless lawsuits, many small companies are forced to settle rather than pay millions in legal fees. Millions that could have been spent on development and job creation.

Last year patent trolls sued companies over 5,000 times, costing up to \$80 billion. Technology changes by the minute. Our patent protection laws should be updated so that businesses have the protection needed to innovate and create new technologies that can boost our economy.

If not, patent trolls will continue to stifle innovation and harm the potential of our tech economy from growing. We hope that you and your colleagues will work together to stand up to patent trolls so that our tech industry can continue to grow, innovate and create much needed jobs.

Sincerely,

Tray Abney
Director of Government Relations

cc: Senator Harry Reid
Senator Dean Heller
Federal Trade Commission

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