

From: Sheryl Hardy
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 3:13 PM
To: SoftwareRoundtable2013
Subject: FW: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: - Concerns over Patent Assertion Entities
Importance: High

Good Afternoon:

I wish to express my concerns over Patent Assertion Entities or Patent Trolls as they known. These firms are taking advantage of flaws in the nation's patent system allowing them to abuse and intimidate tech companies like small start-ups and a wide range of other businesses.

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. These forced settlements take away money that could have been spent on development and job creation.

I hope the PTO put a stop to these unnecessary lawsuits.

Sheryl Hardy
Executive Director
Perryton, Texas CDC
806-435-4014

