



October 29, 2015

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid:

We are inventors and innovators growing small businesses and creating jobs in America. Many of us are patent holders. We write to express our strong support for the PATENT Act and the Innovation Act, comprehensive patent reform legislation that would deter bad actors and incentivize more innovation among our community of startups nationwide.

As high tech entrepreneurs, we know that great risks and challenges come with starting a business—keeping up with rapidly changing technology, competing for funding, and navigating fluctuating regulation in Washington. But one challenge few of us anticipated was the financial burden resulting from the activities of bad actors who abuse the patent system.

Patent trolls don't create any products or services, but instead exist for the sole purpose of suing inventors, entrepreneurs, and innovative businesses. At least 80 percent of patent troll victims are small- and medium-sized businesses, including innovative startups building important tools and services. Faced with potentially millions of dollars in legal fees, years in the courtroom, and diverted product plans, many startups choose to simply pay a fee to settle and make the case go away—even if they are innocent. This cycle of settlements consequently keeps patents unchallenged and funds the trolls' continued frivolous activity. And we're left with an environment in which businesses like ours lose valuable resources that otherwise could have been used to create good jobs.

That's why it's crucial that Congress pass patent reform legislation. The PATENT and Innovation Acts take on a patent litigation system filled with loopholes that allows the so-called patent troll business model to thrive. Both the Senate and House must pass bills that:

- Increase transparency of patent ownership and infringement allegations so startups can make informed decisions about how they should proceed;
- Reasonably limit unnecessary, expensive discovery so small companies and startups can afford to litigate;
- Allow courts to use their discretion to require bad actors to pay the prevailing party's attorney fees if the losing party acted unreasonably, affording startups to take on a troll threat while discouraging those trolls from bringing frivolous cases;
- Protect startups using another's technology and allow startups to protect their customers by holding a technology's manufacturer accountable for infringement allegations; and
- Limit bringing patent infringement suits to districts where the patent inventor conducted research or a party operates a physical facility, disincentivizing those who cherry-pick venues based on where they are most likely to win.

Some of us own patents of our own, some of us do not. But we all recognize that patents play an important role in technology innovation and do not believe that the changes we seek will undermine that role or weaken the patent system. We are concerned that the current system allows for abuse by bad actors to the detriment of innovators and small businesses everywhere. On behalf of entrepreneurship and innovation in America, we urge you to enact robust patent reform now.

Sincerely,

The undersigned:

1 Minute Candidate
Kansas City, KS

handup.org
San Francisco, CA

Proto Venture Technology
Chesterfield, NJ

3MADGirls
Blaine, WA

HATTERY
San Francisco, CA

PRSONAS, Inc.
Durham, NC

A&H Stabilitas Ventures, Inc.
Seattle, WA

HEADS UP
Buffalo, NY

Rally Software
Boulder, CO

Adams Technology Ventures LLC
Durham, NC

HealthID Profile Inc.
Cranston, RI

Red Fox Clan
Austin, TX

Aerialink
Bettendorf, IA

Help Scout
Boston, MA

Reemo
Minneapolis, MN

Aerospace
San Diego, Ca

Hidrate Inc.
Boulder, CO

Remedify
Nashville, TN

AIRETOS ® (VoxMicro)
Diamond Bar, CA

Hirely
Washington, DC

ReplySend
Boulder, CO

Airmika, Inc.
Southern Pines, NC

hobbyDB
Boulder, CO

Rockstar Digital
Los Angeles, CA

Angaza Design
San Francisco, CA

HomeSpotter
Minneapolis, MN

Rollbar, Inc.
San Francisco, CA

AngelList
San Francisco, CA

Infiniscene Inc.
Chicago, IL

SafeSurge Inc.
Huntington, NY

Application Developers Alliance
Washington, DC

Infinet International Inc.
New York, NY

SailPoint Technologies, Inc.
Austin, TX

Aptology
Folsom, CA

Inside Social
Seattle, WA

Sandberg Tech of North
Dakota, LLC
Devils Lake, ND

asensei
San Francisco

Interapt
Prospect, KY

Seed Here LLC
Iowa City, IA

Atlas Wearables
Austin, TX

InterestMe
San Francisco, CA

SEO'Brien
Austin, TX

Augur Boulder, CO	Jolt Athletics St. Louis, MO	Shapeways New York, NY
Automattic San Francisco, CA	JumpCloud Inc Boulder, CO	Shellify Inc. New York, NY
BagsUp Seattle, WA	Kansas City Startup Village Kansas City, KS & Kansas City, MO	Simple Energy Boulder, CO
Bella Minds, LLC New York, NY	Kapuno Communities San Francisco, CA	SimpleRegistry Durham, NC
Big Step Consulting Inc. Seattle, WA	KAYAK Stamford, CT	SmartRideApp.com San Francisco, CA
Binary Formations, LLC Mechanicsville, VA	Keen Home Inc. New York, NY	Smoopa, Inc. Menlo Park, CA
Biomeme Inc Philadelphia, PA	Keen IO San Francisco, CA	SnapEngage Boulder, CO
Capstone Photography Middlefield, CT	KeepUp Inc. Buffalo, NY	Sonic Santa Rosa, CA
Cardlytics Atlanta, GA	Kent Creative, LLC Maplewood, MN	Spend Consciously Washington, DC
Care Current Memphis, TN	Kickstarter Brooklyn, NY	Sphero Inc. Boulder, CO
Cinder San Francisco, CA	Kinetic New York, NY	Sport Ngin Minneapolis, MN
Cinderman Studios Crown Point, IN	Knowtify, Inc San Francisco, CA	SportsFeed Inc San Francisco, CA
CitiQuants Corporation Coconut Grove-Miami, Florida	Laminar Research Columbia, SC	SPORTZPEAK, Inc. San Francisco, CA
city dining cards Buffalo, NY	Launch Tennessee Nashville, TN	Stabilitas Redmond, WA
ClipMine, Inc. Mountain View, CA	LeChat, Inc. Oakland, CA	Start Co. Memphis, TN
COCO LLC Minneapolis, MN	Life360 San Francisco, CA	Startup & Tech Mixer San Francisco, CA

CodeHS San Francisco, CA	LiveViewGPS Inc Valencia, CA	Steiger Dynamics LLC Redwood City, CA
Comingle Atlanta, GA	LSQ New York, NY	Storytime Studios Boston, MA
ConBody by Coss Athletics, LLC New York, NY	LyteShot Chicago, IL	Studio Neat Austin, TX
Darwin Reactive San Francisco, CA	Main Sequence Technology Willoughby, OH	Supermechanical Austin, TX
Descartes Biometrics, Inc. Blaine, WA	MakersKit Los Angeles, CA	Support for Reform Austin, TX
Development Seed Washington, DC	Mapbox Washington, DC	Tahoe Mountain Labs South Lake Tahoe, CA
Device Magic Raleigh, NC	Meetup, Inc. New York, NY	Tangible Play San Francisco, CA
Dialect NY New York, NY	MentorMe Memphis, TN	Teamphoria LLC Charleston, SC
Distinc.tt San Francisco, CA	MentorTech Ventures Philadelphia, PA	Techstars Boulder, CO
DITTO San Francisco, CA	MLS My Nest Memphis, TN	Tesser Health Miami, FL
DivorceSecure Memphis, TN	MobileTREC Corporation Los Angeles, CA	The Bunker Labs for Military Veteran Entrepreneurship Chicago, IL
Docvia LLC dba ICEdot Tulsa, OK	Neighborland San Francisco, CA	Think Design New York, NY
Dovetail Care, Inc. Menlo Park, CA	NetNinja San Francisco, CA	TMSOFT Arlington, VA
Duffy Inc New York, NY	Netra Inc Boston MA	Travelopod Inc Sunnyvale, CA
DUMBO Startup Lab Brooklyn, NY	Next Big Sound New York, NY	Tribe PM, LLC Chicago, IL
Dynamite Labs, Inc New York, NY	Nix Hydra Los Angeles, CA	Tumblr, Inc. New York, NY

E55, Inc. Cambridge, MA	Nixco, LLC Saint Louis, MO	Urban Airship, Inc. Portland, OR
eDivv, Inc. New York, NY	Notion Denver, CO	uShip.com Austin, TX
Ephemeral Labs Limited New York, NY	NourishWise Nashville, TN	Uvize, Inc. Boulder, CO
Estate Map, LLC Minneapolis, MN	NURSE TECHNOLOGIES INC. Atlanta, GA	Vetted San Jose, CA
Etsy Brooklyn, NY	Nutritionix Washington, DC	Village Capital Washington, DC
FantasyHub Inc Austin, TX	OccamzRazor San Francisco, CA	Vimeo, LLC New York, NY
Fark, Inc Lexington, KY	One Model Inc. Austin, TX	Virtkick, Inc. San Antonio, TX
Fetchnotes Cambridge, MA	OneFire, Inc. Peoria, IL	Virtue Events Durham, NC
Filament Reno, NV	Options Away Chicago, IL	Workforce Matrix San Francisco, CA
FileOpen Systems Inc. Santa Cruz, CA	Ordr.in, Inc. New York, NY	WorkOutLoud, LLC. Minneapolis, MN
Flash Mob Media New York, NY	Ovatem Boston, MA	www.teamsnap.com Boulder, CO
Flavorpill Media New York, NY	PadMapper Mountain View, CA	Zagster Cambridge, MA
Foundry Group Boulder, CO	Pasky Gruber LLC Chicago, IL	Zenput San Francisco, CA
Foursquare New York, NY	Pathways LLC Saint Paul, MN	Zoomforth San Francisco, CA
Fresh Vine Minneapolis, MN	Patient IO Austin, TX	
Garmentory Seattle, WA	Pet Wireless San Diego, CA	
Gem Venice, CA	Pinterest San Francisco, CA	

Gilt Groupe
New York, NY

PivotDesk
Boulder, CO

GiveForward
Chicago, IL

PlakeSide.com
Minneapolis, MN

Good&Co. INC.
San Francisco, CA

Plum
Austin, TX

Graphiq (formerly FindTheBest)
Santa Barbara, CA

Plunk, LLC
Portland, OR

Growth Hacker TV
Chicago, IL

ProAxion
Cary, NC

Guru
Philadelphia, PA

Project Decibel, Inc.
Boston, MA

Cc:
Members of the United States Senate