

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments for your review and decision-making toward fairness in our patent legal system. I am an inventor and owner of a small company and I also have worked in Fortune 100 companies.

I appeal to you to support my ability (and those like me) to invent, work, hire and be protected by my patents to sell products and or license my patents. I've outlined some key concerns and encourage you to reach out for clarification of any of what I have shared. I apologize in advance for the formatting as bullet points and formats are lacking in this web portal.

Nevertheless, the bottom line is that small inventors need your help as we believe we can and do make a difference for this country and we believe we are being threatened by large companies to do good work, and to be strategic partners with them and anyone because of the lack of patent protection. Specifically:

Our Current Patent System Fails to protect small inventors:

[] Knowledge of Failure to protect

- I have met with and heard the accounts of the years of work and money to patent and develop inventions from small inventors invalidated in moments by the PTAB. These patent owners may have spent years to develop an idea and huge sums of money to obtain an officially signed patent granted by the USPTO only to have an appointed board destroy them financially, emotionally and negatively impacting their employees, suppliers and all who support them.

[] Protection concerns as an inventor and patent holder

- Because my patented ideas, now published as required by USPTO has been cited by 176 patents applications from some of the largest companies in the USA – who need my invention to create theirs -- I believe I have no recourse, no protection, no opportunity to defend my patent. <https://patents.google.com/patent/US20160033966A1/en#citedBy>
- If I raise the issue of infringement, the PTAB has a reputation to invalidate small inventor's patent(s) over larger companies.
- The cost to engage attorneys is prohibitive due to the laws on contingency protection
- I have reached out to these companies personally and they have indicated that information I've shared is now public knowledge and can be theirs to use as they wish even though I have a patent.

Protection is needed:

- Small Entities need to be protected because of their vulnerability against large corporations
- An Article III Federal district court will allow the small entity to have a fair opportunity and avoid impartiality
- A jury of peers, people who have interest in the inventiveness of small companies and the prevention of trolls should both be on the jury – not a Federal Tribunal who can be partial.
- There should be an impartial judge who sees small inventors as equals to the large companies
- There should be limits to the number of motions and the timeframe – I know of a case where a Fortune 10 company with a team of their lawyers brought unrelated motions to derail the proceedings for years – and the company clearly took the small inventors idea and created a form of filibuster in the courtroom thereby exhausting the small inventor's funding to fight.
- Make the laws to push settlements outside of courts – re-establish injunctive relief

Thank you again,  
Sincerely,  
Emmett Farris