

GoFundMe

I need your help. Small businesses need your help. It is about the big guys beating up on the small guys because they can.

As I wrote to my senator—and never heard back—small businesses, mom and pop shops, are the lifeblood of America. Patent trolls are like heart attacks. Even if the patent is as ridiculous as the one I am being faced with, there is almost nothing I can do.

I wrote to everybody. Senators, Congressmen, SBA, USPO, AG, FTC, FDA and a few other acronyms. With no responses, no relief, I am writing to you.

You can find out more about the patent in question on my website, but suffice to say EVERYBODY in my industry finds the patent absurd. If I explain it to you, you would find it absurd as well. It should have never have become a patent. But it did. And once it becomes a patent, it costs a lot of money to challenge and defeat it.

I am \$15,000 into this with no end in sight. I borrowed that money, instead of just caving like most in my industry. I even went further and challenged the patent publically. Me, my associates, and the association I am trying to form to help my industry are all being threatened with nasty, legal sounding letters. Essentially, they are trying to isolate me and shut me up.

I have done all that I could. I put in hundreds of hours of research, at the expense of my company, my life and my marriage. Nothing really makes sense, but the one thing I found is “common sense” has almost no relation to “legal sense.” For example, I could get sued just for calling this company “patent trolls.” I can get hit with a \$10 million fine for attempting to organize my industry against the patent. Seriously.

The federal government has made some changes to reel in patent trolls, a major problem in this country, but not enough has been done for the mom and pop shops that desperately need it. More needs to be done. I think it can start with challenging this patent and making more people aware of the issue.

I am like you. I chased the American dream. Business ownership is not all it is cracked up to be, but it does have it's perks. My company had its best year ever last year—but both me and my business partner are not getting paid for a few months while we keep our employees paid and catch up on things. Aye, it is what you sign up for.

I just want to be left alone, play some golf, work, and have a life. But I need to get this patent troll off my back. I need people to get my back. Will you?

It has been estimated that a challenge of the patent can run anywhere between \$50,000 and \$250,000. Any money collected beyond what is needed will go towards small business relief.

Thank you.