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Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2010 1:39 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Bilski Guidance

To Whom It May Concern,

For years I've watched as the biggest players in the software and tech markets throw their weight around using software patents. It's all very discouraging to innovation. I even have some very useful software I've developed that I'm hesitant to do anything with lest it result in a lawsuit from someone with a software patent -- that is, with a patent on an idea.

I urge you at the USPTO to take a strong stand against software patents in your new guidance. Unless the patent explicitly declares the source code used to create the patented invention then it is nothing but a weapon to be used to stifle competition and blockade a market from start-ups and small businesses.

A software patent is simply a patent on a mathematics. Surely an engineer could not patent the equation for calculating load on a wall. Why should a software company be able to patent the equation for analyzing a set of data in a program? Surely an engineer is legally allowed to alter an equation to make it more effective. Why should I not be allowed to alter an equation in some software to make it more effective for my uses?

Software patents stifle freedom, innovation, and the free market.
Please, exclude software from patent eligibility.

Very Sincerely,

Peter Grandstaff
US Citizen

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