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Senator Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

Advances in technology have made life a little easier in our fast-paced world. We depend on it for almost everything we do, from on-line shopping and buying movie tickets to paying for groceries at the check out. But what we don't know is that patent trolls are threatening advances in the technology we enjoy today.

This concerns us as Chairs of Nevada's Judiciary committees, both because we represent a diverse constituency that includes small business leaders, tech companies and even small start up companies and because we see the problems this could represent to our fragile economy. These businesses contribute to the economic growth in Nevada and have created much-needed jobs here as well. But unfortunately, they are being targeted by patent trolls who are suing them for baseless patent infringement.

These patent trolls use flaws in our patent system to abuse and intimidate small tech companies. As a result, many small companies are forced to settle because they can't pay million of dollars in legal fees. Some small companies try to fight the trolls and go through the litigation process only to spend money that should have been used towards innovation.

We understand that our leaders in Washington have worked to help empower and protect the tech business community. But we are afraid the speed at which technology is developing has made many protections out of date, especially those in the patent system. We need to fix this.

The bottom line is that patent trolls stifle innovation and threaten the potential of our tech economy from growing. We need to do more to protect our tech economy and our tech companies.

Sincerely,

State Senator Tick Segerblom
Chair of Nevada State Senate Judiciary Committee

Assemblyman Jason Frierson
Chair of Nevada State Assembly Judiciary Committee