

From: Mike Kelley [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2010 7:18 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Subject: Patents are an obstruction to the advancement of technology

To Whom it May Concern,

In your upcoming new regulations on patents to fit the Supreme Court decision of *Bilski v. Kappos*, I request you begin winding down the use of patents in our society. The Court decision is unclear is exactly how the patent system should work with regards to software and to a lesser extent hardware. But your office does have the power to make the use of patents to limit technological innovation stop. When the patent system was first created, the amount of inventions was minuscule compared to the incredible rate of progress we experience today. If patents were eliminated, that rate could grow still higher and faster. The patent system is also abused by large corporations attempting to maintain control over their particular market segment. This is anti-competitive and actively harmful to our society. This practice should be stopped because it is the right thing to do.

In the next few decades, civilization must address some very pressing issues if it is to survive. The technology needed to solve these problems don't exist yet, and there is very little incentive to start working on them. Patents actually disincentivize small-scale inventors because big business has snatched up fundamental components of their field and use those patents to force the small guys out of business. How am I supposed to try to solve the food production crisis when Big Agriculture has patented the genes needed for the modifications I can do in my home lab? We might have dozens of new useful modified species if intellectual property laws weren't obstructing innovation.

I hope you will take my view into consideration,
Mike