From: Kathleen Stidham [e-mail redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2010 1:36 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
Cc: [e-mail redacted]
Subject: Software Patentability

As a computer user and frequent share-ware and free-ware user, I want to be clear that I expect programmers to be able to innovate and produce software for open-source applications without fearing that their independent work has already been patented. Unlike a physical product, which has unique characteristics that are generally not easily replicated independent of observation, programs and subroutines are based on commonly understood mathematical and logic principles and could be readily produced by many programmers independently.

To allow patents on "thoughts" of this kind is contrary to the purpose of patents and copyrights in general. I urge you to think carefully about this and consider the implications -- both in terms of creation of material and in costs that would associated with prosecution.

Thank you.

Kathleen Stidham
Olympia, WA