



Pass the Patent Reform Act

The current U.S. patent system is broken. It stifles innovation. Congress needs to pass the Patent Reform Act now. Pro or con?

For the entire article, go to

http://www.businessweek.com/debateroom/archives/2009/04/patent_reform_m.html

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As the CEO of a Silicon Valley semiconductor company, I believe this legislation is bad for the economy, bad for innovation and bad for anybody who believes in fundamental property rights. There's no question it devalues patents. The Senate Judiciary Committee made some improvements to the bill, but we still have concerns about several provisions, namely its provision for reforming post-grant review and its failure to protect the diversion of fees from the U.S. PTO.

In fact, Congress should be spending more energy on improving the PTO. Raising the quality of patents and the speed with which they're evaluated would be the best and most dramatic step toward strengthening the patent system. It also would address most of the concerns about bad patents and frivolous litigation raised by the Big Tech companies that are pushing this misguided effort.