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Comments Submitted by Timothy O'Leary

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I have inventions covered by four patents held by federal agencies - 7582430, 7662568, 8288122 and 8481283. All these inventions pertain to biotechnology and medical diagnostics.

The patent law as written and upheld by the Supreme Court is clear, and allows only for patenting of true inventions. The proposed section 101 revision, in contrast, would allow patenting of natural phenomena. The result of such a change would be negative in many respects. First, it would put the US in a noncompetitive position internationally, because many other countries do not allow such liberal patenting. Second, it would inhibit innovation in the US, because it would create a fertile ground for "patent trolls" to patent natural phenomena, such as gene-disease correlations, which are purely speculative. third, it would inhibit innovation by potentially restricting the ability of scientists to explore natural phenomena. Finally, it would raise prices for US consumers who would shoulder the price for non-inventions which would become patentable under the proposed revisions. In short, this proposal is a way for corporations to increase profits without incurring the R&D costs associated with current patent law, and is thus simply a gieaway to those corporations who are able to file the largest number of patents in the shortest period of time, whether or not the "hand of man" is involved.

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