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Rep. Devin Nunes
Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Trade
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nunes,

As the Executive Director of [Alexan International](#), a California-based consultancy that specializes in large-scale technology projects for both domestic and international clients, I write to express my concerns about a matter that your subcommittee should explore as it focuses on advancing the U.S. trade agenda and WTO related issues. Though private patent trolls may be dominating the Washington's attention, foreign government controlled patent trolls also pose a tremendous risk to American businesses like Alexan that rely on the ability to compete on a level playing field against foreign companies.

Though Alexan is concerned with threats from traditional, domestic patent trolls and their ability to increase our costs dramatically, we are keeping a close eye on actions to curb the further growth of these entities and the threats they pose. We often view their host nations as trading allies, yet they are founding and financing patent trolls that target companies operating internationally, such as Alexan, as a means of advancing their economic interests.

Countries like Japan with its government troll called IP Bridge are already purchasing patents in bulk with the goal to assert them against whomever they view as a hindrance to Japan's economic success, interests, and corporations. IP Bridge, a project of the even larger government-owned Innovation Network Corporation of Japan, received initial funding of nearly \$275 million dollars and has already acquired 5,000 patents it can use to assert against companies who compete with Japanese businesses. Companies like Alexan already face enough challenges to address threats from traditional trolls that don't involve foreign governments getting into trolling. In facing the deep pockets and vast resources of a foreign government, we would likely not stand a chance.

However, Japan is not the only government that has founded patent trolls. Taiwan calls their troll the Industrial Technology Research Institute and it has already targeted companies in U.S. courts. But this isn't just an Asian country trade-related issue. One of the best knowing and most aggressive government controlled patent troll belongs to the French government and is called France Brevets. Unless something is done, more foreign governments will likely found their own trolls rather than risk disadvantage in a global market.



The U.S. looks to California to take leadership not only in the fast moving globalized technological economy but also to help shape the policy which allows our economy to thrive and compete fairly against foreign companies. Government sponsored patent trolls not only hurt the U.S. economy, but they threaten individual businesses like Alexan International that operate in other countries. Thank you for your subcommittee's attention to this matter and your service to the State of California.

Very truly yours,

Alexan International, Inc.

By:  _____

Will Molina

Chief Executive Officer