

9 September 2019

The Honorable Chris Coons, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Intellectual Property
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hello Member Coons,

I'm writing from my office in Portland, Oregon where I run a small, woman-owned business. I invented, copyrighted, trademarked and patented the 'Flippy', the best iPad/tablet/book stand on the market. It is a quirky little problem solver and it took years to perfect and thousands and thousands of dollars to develop. We employ a team in Portland for product development, sales and supply chain. Our warehouse in Salem, Oregon supports developmentally challenged Oregonians and we donate a portion of our sales to FirstBook.org a premier literacy nonprofit based in Washington, DC.

1,255 customer reviews

★★★★★ 4.8 out of 5 stars



Flippy is a wholly original item, unlike product in this category that came before it. We enjoyed several years of modest success based on its 5-star product reviews and unique design. Last year, we got our 'big break' when QVC decided to offer Flippy to their loyal viewers and our sales skyrocketed. For several months this spring, we truly believed that we were living the American Dream. We believed that by operating a

business that cared deeply about the community and improving the world around us, we could both 'play by the rules' and achieve financial success. We raised funding through local investors and felt comfortable expanding our operations.



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Best Invention Ever!

August 31, 2018

Now imagine looking at the website for Walmart.com and seeing YOUR product. YOUR creation **manufactured by another company**, explicitly without permission. Getting one FIVE STAR review after another. Millions and millions of dollars melting before your eyes.

In the space of a few short months, our dream has become a nightmare. The company that has ripped us off and sold our product to Walmart is FAMOUS for ripping off products, flooding the market with low quality copycats, then SUING the original patent owner via the PTAB to invalidate the original patent. What are the chances my business can go up against professional



little

thieves and litigators like these? They belong in prison not driving around in Lamborghinis they bought off MY creativity and others like me.

Why am I telling you this sad and frustrating story? Because this is so, so wrong. Now, instead of enjoying the growth and success of my product by working on new features I have to spend my time trying to figure out how I can possibly go up against a company that routinely litigates companies like mine out of existence. This USPTO is supposed to protect me!!

Did you know that the estimated cost to just simply start an action against a company like Ontel is about \$15,000 a MONTH??!

Did you know that the typical cost to get an FTC 337 Action is close to \$1m??!

I have two more products I'm trying to get to market but who can afford to do it and seriously, what is even the point, if we're just going to get destroyed? My investors are not stupid people. They are successful for a reason and the reason they invested in my company is because they believed that the USPTO is actually on our side!

I read the reviews from people who have found this product spectacularly helpful – particularly people with disabilities and I just want to come to your office and scream.

This situation is untenable, unfair and frankly.... un-American. Please help us.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention to this urgent matter.



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 Daniel T

★★★★★ **Fantastic to use when laying down**

April 12, 2019

Capacity: One Size | Color: Charcoal | **Verified Purchase**

My wife has a bad back and we have been looking for something sturdy so that she can read her kindle and watch YouTube on her iPhone. The trouble with all the other brands is that when you use it it typically covers up the bottom of the screen or isn't sturdy enough. This is wonderfully made and is really sturdy. Also love the ledges that stick out on each side and the choice to choose what angle to use. Whoever **invented** this is a **genius**. Thank you!!!



