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# Letters

LETTERS

## 'Noncompete' clauses serve protective purpose

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RE "MASSACHUSETTS should ease up protecting 'noncompete' clauses" (Editorial, Oct. 30): The purpose of noncompete clauses is to reduce or eliminate the actual or possible appropriation of a company's trade secrets and other confidential business information. Massachusetts courts have enforced these agreements for hundreds of years, and this legal reality has not hindered the state's business growth. And unemployment figures for Silicon Valley for the past two years do not support the notion that eliminating noncompetes somehow improves employment.

By allowing a complete yet time-limited ban on competition from some former employees, noncompetes work more effectively than nondisclosure and nonsolicitation agreements in ensuring that proprietary information remains protected.

Many companies (and often their owners) are forced to put all their assets on the line to obtain adequate funding for their ventures, and spend significant time and money developing proprietary and confidential information. Companies should be allowed some measure of assurance that the fruits of their labors enjoy adequate legal protection.

Andrew P. Botti

*Woburn*