BOB DOLE
KANSAS

STANDING COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
BUDGET
FINANCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 14, 1978

Dr. Richard Cunningham
Room 207 Old Main Building
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Dr. Cunningham:

I should like to apprise you of my activities in the area of patent legislation and its relationship to the problems of transfer of technology.

While federal patent policy transcends all agencies of government, the present emphasis is in the area of biomedical research programs at HEW. As you may know, I delivered a statement last week on the Senate floor, describing the unfortunate situation in HEW's biomedical technology program.

This past week I have raised these issues in the context of proposed legislation. The amendment I introduced to Senator Kennedy's Health Research Bill represents a positive step in ameliorating the particular situation in HEW. I plan to follow up the amendment by introducing, on September 13th, along with Senator Bayh, a bill which would establish a government-wide patent policy. Should you be interested in receiving a rough draft of this bill, please contact Brenda Levenson, on my staff, for a copy.

Patent issues may appear to be only a small factor in establishing productive collaborations between the government and the private sector. In fact, patents are crucial in establishing working relationships between government-supported scientists and the private sector. Passage of the Dole-Bayh bill provides an opportunity to make a symbolic statement of purpose that government and the private sector intend to work as partners in solving the many problems confronting our society.

I solicit your support and advice in these matters.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Dole

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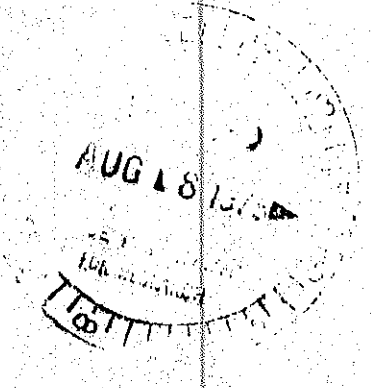

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Enclosure