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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 1, 1979

Dear Friend:

The Senate Judiciary Committee has scheduled a second day of hearings on S. 414, the University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act. The hearing will be held in Room 2228 Dirksen Senate Office Building at 9:30 a.m.

The testimony presented at the first hearing underscored the need to implement a new Government patent policy to insure that useful ideas and inventions made under Federally-supported research and development are delivered to the marketplace as quickly and efficiently as possible. The Comptroller General of the United States, Mr. Elmer B. Staats, testified that S. 414 would be a positive step toward insuring that the public receives the greatest possible benefit from its research dollar.

A panel of small businessmen and another panel of prominent researchers told the Committee about instances of frustrating delay and uncertainty over ownership of patent rights that had slowed down or prevented the marketing of important new discoveries. Some witnesses told how some inventions arising from our research are frustrated in the United States and are finally developed abroad and then sold back to us.

Witnesses for the second hearing will include a representative of the Department of Commerce, a panel of prominent university officials, representatives of small business groups, and a spokesman for the American Patent Law Association.

I think that these witnesses will be presenting new ideas about effective means for cutting unnecessary bureaucratic red tape, and about the impact that passage of S. 414 would have on innovation and productivity.

I appreciate all of the help that our friends have given to those of us supporting this bill. I think that with your continued support we will be successful in enacting this legislation in this session of Congress.

Sincerely,

Birch Bayh

Birch Bayh
United States Senator