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United States Senate

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

January 30, 1979

This went to All Senators

The Honorable Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
United States Senator
358 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mac:

In February, we will be reintroducing the University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act, which you cosponsored last year.

As you know, this bill would create an incentive for commercialization of the hundreds of valuable medical, energy, and other technological discoveries presently sitting unused under government control. All too often the government sponsors research that leads to socially useful discoveries, yet refuses to relinquish the patent fights that could convert the discoveries into marketable products.

Our bill will give limited patent protection for those universities, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses willing to spend the money necessary to develop and market inventions made during their government-supported research.

A number of patent experts have helped us revise this legislation during the recess. I have enclosed a draft of this year's bill for your information.

Please telephone Joe Allen (49263) of Senator Bayh's staff, or Brenda Levenson (47563) of Senator Dole's staff, if you have any questions. We hope you will want to be added again this year as an original cosponsor of this bill.

Sincerely,

Birch

Birch Bayh

Bob

Robert Dole

Enclosure