

A Special Washington Report

from BIRCH BAYH

November 21, 1980

Dear Friend,

Today, the House of Representatives approved my amendment to H.R. 6933, the Patent Law Act of 1980. This important bill is now on its way to the President to be signed into law.

Briefly, the bill includes: the University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act which allows universities, nonprofit organizations and small businesses to retain title to inventions they make while under a government contract; patent re-examination; authority for the Patent and Trademark Office to revise its patent and trademark fee structure; a study of the feasibility of computerizing the Patent and Trademark Office; and finally, a clarification of the Copyright Act as it relates to computer software.

The passage of this bill is a major step forward for the patent system and for American innovation and productivity. The widespread support of the Congress and private sector for a strengthening of patent and trademark system will make it easier for future efforts to carry on this fight.

It has been a privilege for me to have been associated with this effort which has now resulted in the passage of the first general overhaul of the government patent policy in the nation's history and in an increased public awareness of the value of the patent and trademark system.

I would like to thank all of you who contributed so much time and effort to make this victory possible. Passage of H.R. 6933 will be seen in coming years as one of the most important first steps taken toward turning around our innovation and productivity problems, and I am proud of having been a part of this endeavor.

Sincerely yours,

Birch

Birch Bayh
United States Senator

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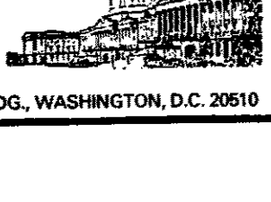

363 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BLDG., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Birch Bayh
U.S.S.