JAMES O. EASTLAND, MISS., CHAIRMAN

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASS.
BIRCH BAYH, IND.
ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.
JAMES ABOUREZK, S. DAK.
JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DEL.
JOHN C. CULVER, IOWA
HOWARD M. METZENBAUM, OHIO
DENNIS DECONCINI, ARIZ.
PAUL HATFIELD, MONT.
MARYON ALLEN, ALA.

STROM THURMOND, S.C.
CHARLES MC C. MATHIAS, JR., MD.
WILLIAM L. SCOTT, VA.
PAUL LAXALT, NEV.
ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH
MALCOLM WALLOP, WYO.

FRANCIS C. ROSENBERGER
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 27, 1979

Dear Friend:

On Friday, February 9, 1979 I reintroduced the University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act, which will allow universities, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses to retain patent rights on inventions made under federally-supported research. Senator Bob Dole and 14 of our Senate colleagues have already joined the bill as co-sponsors indicating the kind of broad bipartisan support the bill has received.

A remarkably low percentage of federally held patents - less than 4% - are licensed to private industry for development and marketing, undoubtedly contributing to the present productivity slump and huge balance of payments deficits. This bill should present at least a partial solution to these problems by encouraging the private sector to take the inventions off of the agency shelves and out into the marketplace.

It is important that supporters of this legislation inform their representatives in the Senate and House of the need for this bill. I hope that you will join with me in alerting the Congress of the magnitude of the problems facing universities and small businesses who want to see the fruits of the research that they are conducting for the Government delivered to the marketplace where they can benefit the American people.

With your active support I believe that we can pass the University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act and begin to address the problems caused by an ineffective, stifling patent policy.

I have enclosed some information on the bill which I thought might interest you.

Sincerely,

Birch Bayh

Birch Bayh
United States Senator

Enclosure