UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Productivity, Technology and Innovation
Washington, D.C. 20230
(202) 377-1984

December 19, 1983

Dear Friend:

Senator Robert Dole has recently asked the Office of Productivity, Technology, and Innovation of the Department of Commerce for its comments on legislation introduced by the Senator on Government patent policy. The bill, S. 2171, provides for contractor ownership of inventions generated under Government grants and contracts. The legislation thus extends the provisions of Public Law 96-517 (covering only nonprofit organizations and small businesses) to all contractors regardless of size. The bill also amends the current law by removing certain restrictions imposed on nonprofit organizations and small businesses under the present statute.

As a part of its review, the Department is soliciting comments from experts in the area of Government patent policy. We would greatly appreciate receiving any comments which you would care to make on the legislation which is enclosed.

If you have any questions,or would like more information please call Norman Latker at 202-377-0659 or Joe Allen at 202-377-8101.

Sincerely,

Bruce Merrifield

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Enclosure: