UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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March 4, 1980

The Honorable William Proxmire
United States Senate
5241 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Proxmire:

I am writing to ask your help in obtaining Senate approval of S. 414, the University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act. Many observers feel that this bill, which has over 50 co-sponsors, would probably pass if it were brought to a vote on the Senate floor. However, I understand Senator Long has delayed such a vote, and has raised objections to the proposed legislation.

As you know, S. 414 provides the universities with the certainty of ownership of inventions made with Government funds, which is so necessary to the expeditious transfer of the results of university research to the public for its use and benefit. That such certainty of ownership enhances technology transfer is evident from the information presented during the hearings held relative to Institutional Patent Agreements between government agencies and universities.

The process of technology transfer is both complex and long-term; assistance for that process in the form of legislation is long overdue. It is our opinion that it is logical and timely to work toward passage of S. 414 to supply innovative incentives where they are most sorely needed. The enhanced transfer of vital technology which will be experienced under such legislation can then become a strong recommendation for expansion of the provisions of S. 414 to include all contractors with the Government.

I hope that you will do everything possible to bring this important piece of legislation to a vote in the United States Senate. We would be grateful for any assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,

Irving Shain
Chancellor