MICHIGAN ENERGY AND RESOURCE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

MERRA

MEMO TO: Files

FROM: John E. Mogk

SUBJECT: Meeting with Bruce Lehman of the House Judiciary Committee

DATE: January 30, 1979

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At 8:30 a.m., Herb Robbins and I met with Bruce Lehman of the House Judiciary Committee to discuss the proposed Small Business and Non Profit Organization Patent Policy Act of 1978. The act was initially sponsored by Senators Bayh, Dole and others and has begun to catch some attention in the House. Apparently, Peter Rodino, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, will introduce the bill along with others on February 9, 1979, simultaneously with its reintroduction in the Senate. Congressman Kastemeier who is chairman of the subcommittee that will assess the bill, will hold meetings shortly thereafter. He apparently is the congressman from the Madison, Wisconsin district. The University of Wisconsin has strong interest in the bill.

Lehman said that Kastemeier, who has for a long time opposed anyone having rights in patents that result from research funded by the federal government, is beginning to draw a distinction between large business corporations and universities and research institutes which do not have the wherewithal to develop follow-on patents or to commercialize themselves the patent once invented. He said that he had already been asked by several large universities to testify at the hearings and wasn't sure that Tech could. On the other hand, he said that Tech or MERRA or anyone else could put a statement in the record.

He promised to keep us informed as to the proceedings with respect to the bill and expected some action upon it this year. He said he would very much like to have specific examples from universities where research has been supported with federal money and by virtue of the current patent policy the inventions have not put into commercial use. I said I would attempt to obtain them for him from Tom Evans and others and would be back in touch. We gave a copy of the MERRA annual report to Lehman.

/jg
cc: J. Howard
T. Anuskiewicz

* Governor Milliken's Washington Representative