Philip W. Hamilton
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March 1, 1985

Ralph Bettman
Performex
The Ferry Building, Room 3045
San Francisco, CA 94111

Dear Mr. Bettman:

Confirming our conversation, there are several public policy issues that the Management Division might want to consider addressing. A general topic of interest to most of ASME is technology transfer. Within this general topic, there are two specific areas that you may want to consider: 1. Amendments to the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act; and 2. Patent law changes.

In regard to Stevenson-Wydler, the Committee on Science and Technology of the U.S. House of Representatives is planning hearings in May or June to receive public input on how to strenghten the law. One of the key issues under Stevenson-Wydler is how to improve transfer of technology from federal laboratories and agencies to the private sector. The Committee is particularly interested in hearing from the private sector on how to remove barriers and provide incentives for greater commercial utilization of federally-supported R&D. More details on Stevenson-Wydler are enclosed.

A second, more long-term project relates to review of proposed patent law changes to inprove technology utilization and productivity. For example, I am enclosing information on proposed legislation to strengthen patent protection for design. The American Bar Association is soliciting the assistance of ASME on the legislation.

I talked to Jim Hamilton of the Division's Technology Forecasting and Transfer technical committee and Dr. Pei, who may be interested in participating in a Division project on technology transfer. The ASME Federal Government Relations Department is available to provide support and advice to the Division on public affairs activities. Please let me know if the Division wishes to pursue a public policy project. I would particularly like to know about Division interest in Stevenson-Wydler, because if you decide to forgo participation, we want to have time to approach other ASME groups.

Sincerely,

cc: A. J. Rothstein
J. Hamilton
R. Y. Pei
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