OISS FORM 51 (Rev. 11-82)

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 99TH CONGRESS

SENATE

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S.1914	DEC 16 '85 (174)	S17714

ACTION: REMARKS BY MR. D'AMATO

FEDERAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACT OF 1985

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today in support of legislation, the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1985, proposed by my distinguished colleague from Washington, Mr. GORTON.

This legislation addresses an overlooked area of our Federal research efforts—the inability of Federal laboratories to work collaboratively with private research labs. Because collaborative research is not allowed in Federal laboratories, the capabilities of these institutions are limited significantly.

Current research in this country is extremely isolated and independent. Quite often, one laboratory is unaware of activities taking place in another laboratory which is performing comparable research. As a result, there is a great deal of duplication within the research community. Easier and more accessible exchange of information would decrease this redundancy and would promote educational and informational exchanges among researchers.

The Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1985 attempts to alleviate this duplication. This legislation establishes a Federal Laboratory Consortium to promote the exchange of information between Federal and private laboratories.

This information center would be administered by the Bureau of Standards, a Federal organization very experienced in facilitating the dissemination of information. The Bureau of Standards has expressed a desire to administer this program.

A great deal of innovative research takes place in non-Federal laboratories. Companies and universities are involved in a broad spectrum of research, much of which is related to research taking place in Federal laboratories. Not promoting collaborative research efforts only hurts our Federal research efforts.

In addition to this technological exchange, S. 1914 provides Federal researchers with a percentage of the royalties if their research leads to a viable product sold in the marketplace. This type of incentive encourages quality research within Federal laboratories, and it promotes collaborative efforts between Federal and private researchers. This type of incentive can only lead to a greater quality of research in this country.

I call on my colleagues to join me in promoting the research efforts of this country.●