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CHARLOTTESVILLE

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16 June 1978

Senator Gaylord Nelson  
Chairman  
U. S. Senate Monopoly and Anticompetitive  
Activities Subcommittee of the  
Select Committee on Small Business  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

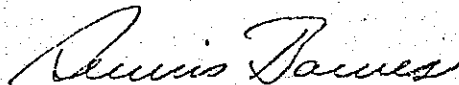
I understand that the Subcommittee will hold hearings on June 21, 22, 23 and 26 on the subject of government-wide Institutional Patent Agreements. The University of Virginia will not be able to be represented at these hearings but would like to be on record as supporting the concept of government-wide IPA's and urges your Subcommittee to support the use of IPA's as an effective transfer mechanism for university-developed technology. We hope that the regulations for government-wide IPA's of the GSA will be implemented.

The University of Virginia has developed an assertive program in the last five years to manage inventions by our faculty and staff. So far some 83 inventions have been disclosed, 35 patents have issued and 12 licenses have been negotiated. Royalty income, which has been modest to date, has supported additional research within the University and the administration of the patents program.

Equally important and greater in dollars is the research support (\$280,000 last year) which we have received from industries with potential interests in the technology which might result. I emphasize that the research originates with our faculty and traditional academic rights, such as the right to publish, are maintained. Without the IPA we would be hardpressed to develop either this source of research support or royalty income because of the uncertainty about assignment of rights by the Federal government and the accompanying uncertainty of industry about its future commercial position; our ability to help transform for use by the public the products of our research would be greatly reduced.

I hope that this information will be helpful for your Subcommittee's investigation.

Sincerely yours,



Dennis W. Barnes  
Associate Provost for Research

cc: Mr. Carl B. Wootten  
Executive Director  
University of Virginia Alumni  
Patents Foundation

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