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# United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 22, 1979

Mr. John R. Pike  
Howard W. Bremer  
Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation  
P. O. Box 7365  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Sirs:

Thank you very much for your letter on the bill S. 414, the University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act, introduced by Senators Bayh, Dole and others.

Given our correspondence on last year's version, S. 3496, it would be most helpful to have your analysis of the changes that Senator Bayh says have resulted in "a much improved piece of legislation this year."

For example, you know of my concern that section 207 of last year's bill expressly perpetuated the threat that Federal agencies may move to obtain the rights to background patents or know-how of the contractors with whom they do business. The new bill is improved in that it deletes this provision, but what then are the implications for the problem of small business background rights?

Meanwhile, a recent article in The Wall Street Journal by Arlen J. Large, headed "Public Money and Private Gain," referred to our Institutional Patent Agreement hearings of last year and discussed some of the issues involved in the Bayh-Dole bill. A copy of the article is enclosed.

Thank you for your offer to assist in our consideration of the issues raised by S. 414.

Sincerely,

  
GAYLORD NELSON  
Chairman

GN:gsjd

Encls.

Copy to  
Lester  
4/18/79 Joe Allen  
5/10/79