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September 8, 1978

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The Honorable William Proxmire
United States Senate
Room 5241 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Proxmire:

We have learned that on September 13, 1978, Senators Dole and Bayh plan to introduce a Bill to establish a Government-wide patent policy which permits universities and small businesses the first option to acquire ownership of inventions made under Government-sponsored research and development grants and contracts.

In our opinion, the provisions of the new Bill present a reasonable compromise between the need to provide incentives to commercialization in normal Government-supported research and development situations and the abilities of Agencies to fashion special provisions in unusual situations, but in all cases leaving with the Government sufficient prerogatives to deal with any abuses which might develop.

We firmly believe that the proposal of Senators Dole and Bayh is a balanced piece of legislation which will serve as an impetus to the transfer of technology generated with Government funds for the public benefit. Also, very importantly, the Bill will eliminate the burdensome task of administering some 22 different Agency patent policies.

Your co-sponsorship of the Dole-Bayh patent policy Bill is earnestly solicited by our Society.

Very truly yours,

Howard W. Bremer
President

HWB:rw

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