



# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



CHANCELLOR

Bascom Hall • 500 Lincoln Drive  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706  
608-262-9946

March 4, 1980

The Honorable Gaylord Nelson  
United States Senate  
221 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

I am writing to ask your help in obtaining Senate approval of S. 414, the University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act. Many observers feel that this bill, which has over 50 co-sponsors, yourself included, would probably pass if it were brought to a vote on the Senate floor. However, I understand Senator Long has delayed such a vote, and has raised objections to the proposed legislation.

We view S. 414 as providing the universities with the certainty of ownership of inventions made with Government funds, which is so necessary to the expeditious transfer of the results of university research to the public for its use and benefit. That such certainty of ownership enhances technology transfer is evident from the information presented during the hearings you and your committee held relative to Institutional Patent Agreements between government agencies and universities.

The process of technology transfer is both complex and long-term; assistance for that process in the form of legislation is long overdue. It is our opinion that it is logical and timely to work toward passage of S. 414 to supply innovative incentives where they are most sorely needed. The enhanced transfer of vital technology which will be experienced under such legislation can then become a strong recommendation for expansion of the provisions of S. 414 to include all contractors with the Government.

I hope that you will do everything possible to bring this important piece of legislation to a vote in the United States Senate. We appreciate the fact that you are a co-sponsor of the legislation and would be grateful for any additional assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,

Irving Shain  
Chancellor