

August 7, 1978

Secretary Cecil Andrus
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Andrus:

One of my responsibilities here at Oregon State University is to serve as patent manager and provide a service for commercializing inventions arising in the research of our staff. Consequently, I was much interested in the Federal Procurement Regulations change that went into effect on July 18 permitting extended proprietary rights to universities in government supported research contracts. One of these rights was permission to negotiate an Institutional Patent Agreement.

Since we have considerable research support from the U.S. Department of the Interior in areas in which patentable inventions have arisen in the past, we are interested in negotiating such an agreement with the Department.

The attached letters include my queries and the recent reply from Donald Gardiner, Assistant Solicitor of your Patent Branch, which indicates that a Policy Decision in the Department is involved and suggests I write to you. You may wish to pass this to your Solicitor for his attention, however, I believe it is a decision you may wish to participate in eventually.

I am glad to report that our Landsat project with the Pacific Northwest Regional Commission is progressing well. Wally Hedrick continues to do a good job as chairman of our Task Force.

We have all followed with much interest the press reports of some of the difficult decisions you have had to make. We wish you the best of

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health so you will have the energy to continue to apply your good judgments to the solutions of the unbelievably complex domestic problems that keep arising.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

J. Ralph Shay
Assistant Dean of Research

JRS:SLN
Enclosures