



MICHIGAN ENERGY AND RESOURCE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

MERRA

MEMO TO: Thomas P. Evans
FROM: John E. Mogk
SUBJECT: Federal Patent Policy and Peat Conversion
DATE: February 2, 1979

Tom,

Herb Robbins and I met with Bruce Lehman, Council to the House Judiciary Committee, Joe Allen, staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Bob Davis, as well as Stephanie Smith of Donald Riegler's office with respect to Michigan Tech's desire to have the Small Business and University Patent Policy Act passed this session of congress. (See attached memoranda) Lehman said that Chairman Rodino will introduce the bill, together with others, on February 9, 1979 in the House at the same time that Senator Bayh and other senators introduce it in the Senate. He said the inclination of Congressman Kastemeier, whose subcommittee will hold hearings on the bill, is to draw a distinction between private business, including small businesses, and universities and research institutes. Kastemeier has long opposed any rights enuring to research groups from federal support. However, he is growing sympathetic to the universities' and research institutes' position and perhaps will modify his stand.

Lehman says that if the bill doesn't pass this session it probably never will, because of the strong interest now in congress to promote more industrial technology development to compete in the worldwide market. Lehman asked for the university to supply to him specific examples where federally supported research under the present patent policy was not put into commercialization, because of the inhibiting factors. Allen was quite optimistic about the chances of the bill passing and felt that the House subcommittee would report it out. Davis said he was interested and would read the bill and perhaps even offer to cosponsor it.

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With respect to peat, Davis said he would be willing to send a letter to an appropriate DOE official to encourage the DOE to consider Michigan Tech as a participant in what we now understand to be a reduced peat budget. It is our understanding that the budget has been reduced to 1.5 million. Todd Anuskiewicz is following up on this project.

JEM/jg

Att.

cc: T. Anuskiewicz

J. Howard

H. Robbins

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DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL
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