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SPONSORED PROGRAMS DIVISION

F. Philip Dufour
Director
Research and Public Services
Sponsored Programs Division
24 Coburn Hall
University of Maine
Orono, Maine 04469

Dear Mr. Dufour:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing support for S. 414, the University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act.

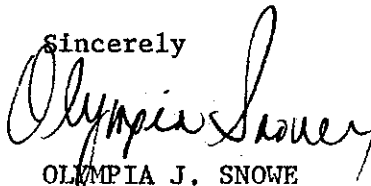
As you know, the Act would establish a government patent policy for inventions developed by small businesses and non-profit organizations utilizing federal funds for research and development. The Act provides that the non-profit organization or small business that develops the invention may retain the title to it unless they are under a contract for the operation of a Government-owned research or production facility, or unless it is determined that the invention would be better utilized otherwise.

S. 414 is currently being considered by the Subcommittee on the Constitution in the Senate Judiciary Committee and hearings on the bill were held on May 16 and June 6.

There is a corresponding bill in the House, H.R. 2414 as introduced by Congressman Peter Rodino, pending before the House Judiciary Committee. The Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties, and the Administration of Justice will hold hearings on this legislation in July. You may be assured that I will keep your concerns in mind should this legislation come before me for a vote in the House.

Again, thank you for bringing my attention to this bill. Whenever I can assist you in any capacity, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Sincerely



OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
Member of Congress
2nd District, Maine

OJS/rlt