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November 28, 1978

Senator Birch Bayh
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Bayh:

I have written to you in the past commending your efforts in seeking passage of the Small Business Nonprofit Organization Patent Procedures Act. Senator Dole's examples of particular inventions over-administered by the DHEW are only the tip of the iceberg. The administration of Government sponsored inventions within other agencies of the Federal Government is even worse.

You already have the sad statistics on the utilization of Government owned patents. I have nothing to add to this data. I do wish to offer a specific example of the incredible red tape a University faces in trying to clear title to an invention.

The invention deals with a process for isotope separation. The research work was done at the University of Missouri at Rolla, and was supported in part by a grant from the Office of Water Research of the Department of Interior. The DOI has always had a very restrictive patent policy. The invention arose as an unexpected result from work being done for another purpose, as should be evident from the text of the correspondence. (I apologize for its bulk.)

You will note that the DOI denied our request. The net result is that this invention is a dead issue. Its status

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is the same as an aborted fetus--we will never know what
it might have been.

Very truly yours,

Ray H. Snyder

RES:cs
enc.

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H. Bremer (w/enc.)
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