



April 11, 1979

Senator Birch Bayh  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on the Constitution  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Bayh:

Thank you for your letter of April 6, 1979 advising of the hearings to be held on the University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act. On behalf of the University community, we deeply appreciate your efforts to seeking passage of this legislation.

As you are aware, each agency of the Federal Government that currently sponsors research at the University has its own patent policy and set of regulations for dealing with such matters. Trying to live with the varied and complicated red tape engendered by these regulations defies belief. This is only one government, of which we are all a part, and why any one agency should be considered a more trusted keeper of the public conscience than another is enough to boggle the mind.

To provide you with a specific example, I wish to offer the following. I represent two major universities in the development and licensing of inventions evolving from their research. Each of these institutions has an Institutional Patent Agreement with the DHEW and with the NSF. Obtaining these IPA's entailed a great deal of time and effort in compiling the detailed information requested by the respective departments.

We recently tried to seek approval of the university's patent policy under the Department of Energy Regulations. The information requested by the DOE is even more detailed and complicated than that required by the DHEW or NSF. On pure logic, it would appear that if the university's policy was acceptable to one agency of the Government, it ought to be acceptable to all.

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After due deliberation, it was our conclusion to await the outcome of your bill rather than try to fight through the requirements of the DOE policy. I believe that all of us feel that we could use our time more productively in trying to get our inventions into the market where they can be of public benefit rather than fighting with bureaucratic red tape.

If we can be of further assistance on this matter, please let us hear from you.

Very truly yours,

*Ray E. Snyder*  
Ray E. Snyder

RES/ao

cc: Howard Bremer ✓  
Paul Keenan  
Marty Rachmeler