



Georgia Institute of Technology

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30332

OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT
FOR RESEARCH

December 14, 1978

Mr. Howard W. Bremer
Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation
P. O. Box 7365
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Howard:

Your memorandum of December 6, 1978 asked for some "honest and candid" comments relative to Congressman Schmitt's bill S.3627. I hope you were sincere in your request, because I find very little merit in this bill and my comments are somewhat negative. Very briefly:

1. The bill attempts to put the government in the business of maintaining and implementing technology transfer, an area where historically the government has failed miserably and will continue to fail. Bureaucrats and bureaucratic ways are not capable of dealing adequately with this subject, and establishing a new government agency to handle it will not improve the situation.

2. The bill sets up "more government", which in itself is very distasteful in view of the current public outcry against government spending. There is no indication that the new agency would do anything more than be a self-generating, make-work office that would require more paperwork of us.

3. The definitions for government ownership of rights are so broad that I do not see how any agency could resist the temptation to own everything. The policy would severely limit any type of inventor/university ownership and sharing of rights, and I cannot see it having anything but a negative effect on future research and development. I don't see any incentives for developing new ideas or, for that matter, making them available to the government and public.

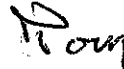
4. The bill allows each agency head to establish his own guidance for application and waivers, which can only result in significantly differing guidance among agencies and utter chaos from a university point of view. It goes further to allow agency heads to require licenses for any reason whatsoever.

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Frankly, I feel this is a very bad bill and I would hope it never sees the light of day. I would recommend that Congressman Schmitt review the so-called Dole/Byah patent bill, S-3496, which was introduced in the last session, as something more appropriate to achieve the results that he desires.

Sincerely,



T. E. Stelson
Vice President for Research

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