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PATENT BRANCH, OGC
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DEC 29 1977

December 17, 1977

Honorable Gaylord Nelson
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Nelson:

We would very much like to express our opposition to any blanket proposal having the government retain all rights regarding patentable ideas, processes, materials or uses when the government has supported-through the use of taxpayers' funds - an investigator and/or his/her research project. We believe that such a proposal, if implemented, would seriously impede the transfer of the fruits of research to the marketplace and to the public, and would deny the investigator and/or his institution the intellectual property he/she is entitled to. As an institution with a duly executed patent agreement with the United States, we recommend wider use of this instrument, the institutional patent agreement, to eliminate abuses - should they exist -. We would appreciate having this letter placed in the record in lieu of the opportunity to be heard between December 19, and 21, 1977.

We should further note that many of us are deeply concerned with the constantly declining proportion of the gross national product going into research, and particularly with the 18% decrease (in constant dollars) in the funding of basic research observed since 1967. With no new knowledge there will be little which can be applied to solve the problems affecting our society and without new knowledge and technology it is difficult to see how the United States will create new jobs and markets.

Sincerely yours,


Federico Welsch, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Director

bcc: Mr. Norman Latker
Dr. Marcel Gut, Patent Committee