



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
The Assistant Secretary for Productivity,  
Technology and Innovation  
Washington, D.C. 20230

(202) 377-1984  
XXXXXX 377-0659

14 MAR 1984

Mr. Ronald J. Philips  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
Washington, D. C. 20546

Dear Ron,

The major impetus for the passage of Public Law 96-517 was testimony that enactment would increase the level of university-industry collaboration. Attached are a number of articles which each identify the marked increase in such collaboration in the last few years.

It is generally agreed that other variables have also contributed to this increased activity, i.e. reduced Federal funding of university research, tax credits, and major discoveries in the biological sciences. However, the university people involved in negotiating agreements with industry credit P. L. 96-517 as being a necessary ingredient to successful university-industry collaboration. In this regard I recommend that you review Mr. MacCordy's recent presentation before the Society of University Patent Administrators.

After checking with the universities, we concluded that several years would have to pass before there would be meaningful statistics on the effects of P. L. 96-517. We are working on a simplified scheme to begin collecting such data soon, but even then, the law only allows the Government to collect statistics on utilization of subject inventions. I doubt that this can be extended to information on joint research agreements, personnel exchanges, research and development limited partnerships, and other forms of collaboration. So we will have to continue to take their word for it.

This much I can assure you. If P. L. 96-517 were impeding, or falling short of its specific objectives, we would be working for its amendment.

Sincerely,

Norman Latker  
Director, Federal Technology  
Management Policy/OPTI/ITP

Attachments

cc: Dr. Williams  
[Handwritten initials]