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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 8, 1977

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WOB  RCA   
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Mr. William O. Burke  
Chairman  
University Patent Committee  
University of Georgia  
Athens, Georgia 30602

Dear Mr. Burke:

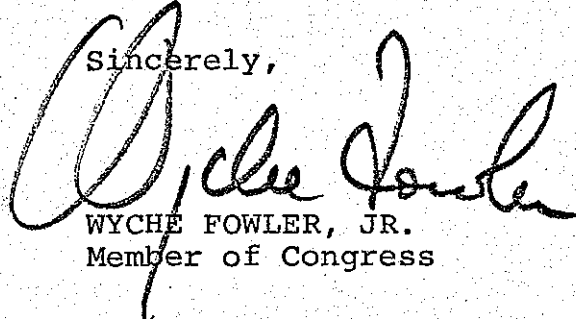
Thank you for your recent letter concerning HR 8596, the Uniform Federal Research and Development Utilization Act. Your summary of the bill was most informative and helpful.

As you point out, there are numerous problems in existing federal patent policy and reform is long overdue. Action should be taken to streamline the administration of the patent system and to encourage maximum utilization of government-supported inventions. HR 8596 would appear to meet these objectives without unduly compromising the public interest. However, I would like the opportunity to review the forthcoming Committee hearings on the bill, and especially the testimony concerning potential abuses, before making my final decision.

Over the years, universities have played a leading role in maintaining a strong American research capability and the University of Georgia has made a significant contribution in this regard. I congratulate you on your past accomplishments and know that you will continue to aid our national research effort.

Thank you again for writing to me and for bringing this matter to my attention. Please feel free to contact me whenever I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

  
WYCHE FOWLER, JR.  
Member of Congress