MAY 14 1979

BIRCH BAYH
INDIANA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 9, 1979

Dear Friend:

The Senate Judiciary Committee has scheduled a day of hearings on S. 414, the University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act, for May 16, 1979. The hearing, which I will chair, will be held at 9:30 a.m. in Room 2228 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The witnesses who have been scheduled to testify represent a wide range of expertise. The Comptroller General of the United States, Mr. Elmer B. Staats, will present testimony based on a study undertaken at my request, of the existing Government patent policies concerning ownership of inventions arising out of Federal research and development programs.

A panel of prominent researchers will also testify about their personal experiences trying to develop inventions under the present patent policies of the agencies. A second panel of small business presidents who have also been involved with Government research and development projects will relate their experiences to the Committee. The Judiciary Committee expects to hold a second day of hearings on S. 414 in early June.

I hope that the supporters of this legislation will now redouble their efforts to inform their congressional representatives in the Senate and in the House of the importance of this issue. We have a very good chance of enacting legislation in this Congress to make sure that we have the best possible patent policy on Government research and development programs.

Sincerely,

Birch Bayh

Birch Bayh
United States Senator