BIRCH BAYH
INDIANA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 6, 1979

Dear Friend:

On Friday, August 3, 1979, I introduced S. 1679, the Patent Law Amendments Act of 1979.

This bill is designed to reduce the costs of challenges to the validity of an issued patent by allowing the Patent and Trademark Office to reexamine contested patents rather than going to court in litigation which frequently costs both parties $250,000 or more and can take months of legal manuevering before any decision is reached. The Patent and Trademark Office has the capability of evaluating such patent challenges for a modest fee and has the technical expertise to evaluate the complex materials which are used in these patent cases.

The Patent Law Amendments Act will help to restore confidence in our patent system by eliminating unnecessary legal red tape. This bill will be important to all patent holders, but is especially important to the independent inventor and small businessman who sometimes find themselves being "blackmailed" by larger competitors who realize that these inventors cannot afford to defend their patents in court and can be infringed upon with little danger.

S. 1679 will also help to turn around our declining rates of innovation and productivity by restoring confidence in our patent system which was described by President Lincoln as "adding the fuel of interest to the fires of genius." I hope that you will join me in support of this legislation.

I have enclosed some material about this bill for your information.

Sincerely,

Birch Bayh
United States Senator

Enclosure

Copy to S. 1679 - Art Smith Ed Yates 11/2/79