UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

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March 26, 1984

The Honorable Arlen Specter
United States Senate
Room 331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Arlen:

I am writing to offer my strong support for S.2171, Senator Dole's Uniform Patent Procedures Act, which will be the subject of Judiciary Committee hearings this week, and to urge your cosponsorship of this legislation.

S.2171 builds upon landmark legislation passed in 1980, Public Law 96-517, which reformed agency patent procedures and successfully promoted commercialization of university-initiated inventions. The bill will assist in advancing the kinds of university-industry collaboration in which Penn has successfully engaged. Specifically, S.2171 would afford all Federal contractors and grantees the opportunity for clear ownership of inventions and discoveries made through Federal research and development support, while protecting the rights of Federal agencies to use such discoveries without payment of royalties. S.2171 would also remove a substantial barrier to industry participation in university research projects by repealing the existing 5-year limitation on the grant of an exclusive license to an industrial concern. This will enable Penn fully to pursue ground-breaking health research, particularly in the development of certain vaccines and devices for orthopedic surgery. The bill would also permit a Federal agency to waive its rights to university inventions if a grant or contract involves co-sponsored, cost-sharing, or joint venture research.

In sum, S.2171 will prove highly beneficial to America's research universities, to American industry, and to the people of the Nation by promoting the development and dissemination of new technologies, and I strongly encourage you, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Sheldon

Sheldon Hackney