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From: Reggie Niles [mailto:reniles@earthlink.net]

Sent: Friday, April 28, 2006 3:32 AM

To: AB94Comments

Subject: Proposed Rules Changes On Claims Examination

Mr. John Doll

Commissioner for Patents

Dear Commissioner Doll,

I am an independent inventor. My funds come from money I have saved. I therefore have a very limited budget for development and marketing of my invention, which means that my patent costs also come from this limited budget.

I understand that the proposed rule changes on claims examination will drastically increase my costs for obtaining a patent, while at the same time restricting the protection I pay for.

I understand that even though I paid for twenty claims to be examined, the examiners will only examine ten claims.

I understand that the proposed rule will force me to file many additional applications all on the same day to cover my invention.

These proposed rules will have the effect of preventing small inventors like myself from being able to bring their inventions to market; only large corporations and well-funded individuals will be able to obtain patents. Doesn't this go against the intent of the Patent Office, which is to encourage invention from as many people as possible so as to keep the United States competitive, etc.?

Rather than the changing the continuation rules, I recommend that you continue to increase rate of hiring of examiners and redirect the fees to training, salaries, and retention. As the examiner force increases, the number of examiners you can hire and train each year will also increase. By your own numbers, the recent increases in examiner hiring has stabilized the time to examine applications. Continuing to hire at the present rate will inevitably drive that time down. Thank you for your consideration of my recommendations.

Sincerely

Reginald E. Niles

Independent Inventor