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To: AB94Comments

Subject: comments

I understand that changes are being proposed by the Patent Office in hopes of reducing the backlog of applications pending in the Office. By reducing the backlog you hope to improve the quality of the examination process. I believe that neither result will be obtained.

By allowing the current continuation practice it is possible to divide the invention into different parts, focus on those aspects of the invention, and obtain allowance of claims directed to specific areas and later file additional continuations to other areas. Thus, the current rules make it possible to break up the task and move forward with different parts of the application more quickly. If everything must be handled at once or in only two different applications it is likely to slow the process. The proposed rules will not allow the process to be divided into smaller parts. This will not only slow the process and increase the backlog, it will make the process more complex and thus more subject to error.

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