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From: Mary Jo West [mailto:Marytfa@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Wednesday, May 03, 2006 1:56 PM

To: AB93Comments

Subject: PLEASE ABANDON Rule Changes for Continuations!

John Doll

Commissioner for Patent Office

RE: Continuation practice

Dear Commissioner Doll,

As an independent inventor, I cannot express strongly enough my objection to the proposed changes for continuations. I am a retired small business owner and was counting on the income from my inventions to support me for the rest of my life.

The United States is supposed to be the land of opportunity. Over our country's history, independent inventors have made this country great. These proposed changes will throw a killing dagger into the hearts and ambitions of people out of work who are trying to support themselves in this way, and retired people trying to do the same thing.

If the patent agency is having some problems keeping up with it's work load, please think of more creative ways to solve these issues, rather than punishing the life blood and energy of our great country. I feel that independent inventors must be strongly encouraged, as your agency has done in the past, for example, with the provisional patent concept. Independent inventors/entrepreneurs have always strongly supported the U.S. economy; we need them now more than ever. In fact, I think if you called upon one or more of us to give you creative ideas to solve your problems, we could do so, without your limiting your services, charging us more, or raising taxes to cover your expenses.

Please abandon the proposed Rule Changes for Continuations, and let others help you find a win - win - win situation for the Patent Office, independent inventors, and our great United States of America. You have been placed in a position of great power; I hope to see you use it wisely.

Thanks for listening,
Mary Jo West
Independent Inventor