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From: Michael D. Strathman [mailto:mstrath@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Wednesday, May 03, 2006 1:46 PM

To: AB94Comments

Subject: Continuation and Claims restrictions

Mail Stop Comments-Patents

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450,

Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450

Dear Commissioner Doll,

I am an independent inventor. My funds come from savings, friends, and loans. I have a very limited budget for development and marketing of my invention. All of my patent costs come out of my limited budget.

I understand that the proposed rules changes on continuations and claims examinations will drastically increase my costs for obtaining a patent, while at the same time restricting the protection I pay for. I understand this will drastically reduce my ability to protect my self from big business concerns and laboratories that I directly compete with for patents.

I fear I will start the Patent process and then due to lack of funds my patent will be "stolen" by someone with much deeper pockets than I could ever hope for.

I understand that the proposed rules will force me to appeal all final rejections rather than filing continuations to give the examiners the additional time the need to better understand my invention.

I understand that the proposed rules will force me to file additional claims in my applications.

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 rules will force me to file many additional applications to cover my invention.

I want you to understand that the proposed rules will take money away from my budget for development of my invention. The proposed rules will take money away from marketing. The proposed rules will take money away from my savings and income. The proposed rules will increase my debt load. The proposed rules will decrease the number of inventions I will be able to bring to the public.

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

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