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

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 02, 2006 10:30 PM

**To:** AB93Comments

**Subject:** Proposed Rule Changes to Continuation Rules

May 2, 2006

TO: John Doll

Commissioner for Patent

RE: Continuation practice

Dear Commissioner Doll

I am an independent inventor and a independent engineer who is funded by patent income. The funds I have come from previous work I have done and saved some of the income from that work. I have a very limited budget for development and marketing of my invention. All of my patent costs come out of my personal limited budget.

I understand that the proposed rule changes on continuations will drastically increase my costs for obtaining a patent, while at the same time restricting the protection I pay 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 applications all on the same day to cover my invention

I understand that the proposed rules will force me to file many additional claims in my applications And force me to file multiple applications with differing claims

I understand that the propose rules will result in that I will have to dip into my personal savings and sell personal assets to operate under these proposed changes in applying for a US patent.

I want you to understand that the proposed rules will severely impact my ability to use the USPTO to protect my inventions. The USPTO is suppose to help the small inventor not harm us.

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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