

September 5, 2001

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent & Trademark Office
Attn: Ronald Hack - Acting Chief Information Officer
Washington, DC 20231

Re: Docket Number 010126025-1025-01
RIN 0651-AB34

Title: Notice of request for Comments on Development of a plan to remove the Patent and Trademark
Classification Paper Files From the Public Search Facilities

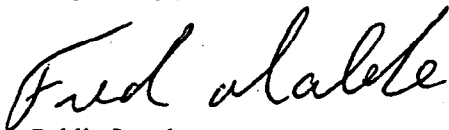
Dear Sir:

As requested, I am responding to your request published in the August 27, 2001 Official Gazette.

Replacing the paper files with electronic files is fine as long as a paper backup in class and subclass order is maintained. Too many times the electronic database system is off line for either a number of hours or a number of days. This would present a problem when an individual attempts to perform a search in the USPTO's public search library. In this day and age of hackers and viruses, I feel the electronic system will become more vulnerable to such events and a paper backup is the only option.

To recap, while I do support the action of creating and maintaining a state-of-the-art electronic system, I think it would be in everyone's best interest to maintain a paper backup just as you have for so many years.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Alabete". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Public Searcher