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PATENTS, TRADEMARKS
& COPYRIGHTS

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** ALSO ADMITTED IN NEW YORK

September 6, 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.

Why is it that the government always feels compelled to fix that which is not broken? If
you want to save the government money, eliminate personnel and spending, but not a
resource that the public is willing to pay to come to Washington, D.C. area and use.

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,


Daniel H. Bliss