



**GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**
Washington, D.C. 20230

October 22, 1999

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6275

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The House passed H.R. 1907, the "American Inventors Protection Act of 1999," on August 4. This bill makes a number of important reforms in patent law and in the operations of the Patent and Trademark Office that will benefit all American inventors. While the bill reflects compromises that in some instances veer from the Administration's preferred position, the House has crafted a strong bill that has gained broad support. The Administration urges the Senate to enact the House bill without delay.

I understand that the Department of Justice will be sending you a letter regarding its interpretation of section 613 of H.R. 1907 with respect to the appointment of a Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this letter to the Committee from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Pinous".

Andrew J. Pinous