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From: Allen Gurrola [mailto:allengurrola@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2006 7:42 PM

To: AB93Comments

Cc: AB94Comments

Subject: Independent Inventors

Dear Commissioner Doll

I am an independent inventor and a Software Implementation Manager for Safeway Grocery Stores. My funds come from my paycheck. I have a very limited budget for development and marketing of my inventions. All of my patent costs come out of my 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 they 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.

I want you to understand that the proposed rules will result in my inability to afford to patent my inventions.

Rather than the changing the continuation rules, I recommend that you continue to increase the 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.

The current patent process is what gives hope to all the independent inventors and product developers. This is what makes our country great. Everyone has the opportunity to be successful. If these changes are put in place it will be only companies and those we deep pockets that are able to take a chance on the patent process.

Thank you for your consideration of my recommendations

Sincerely  
Allen A. Gurrola