

## United States Senate

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

Thank you for the work you are doing to fulfill the promise made by President Trump to make our federal government more accountable and responsive to the American people, and to rein in waste, fraud, and abuse within our agencies. As a U.S. Senator and a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I have a commitment to hold the federal government accountable to the American people, and I look forward to working with you to promote transparency within your agency.

Various federal laws allow government agencies and employees listed as the inventor or coinventor of a patented product to receive royalty payments for the use of that invention.<sup>1</sup> For far too long, there has been a lack of transparency surrounding licensing agreements and royalty payments within the federal government. Under current law, federal employees are not required to report the source or amount of royalty payments they receive for their government-related work. This lack of transparency prevents taxpayers from holding individuals accountable within the federal government for potential conflicts of interest and other abuse.

In order to increase transparency on the matter, I ask that you please provide answers to the following questions:

1. How many employees within your agency receive royalty payments for agency patents?
  - a. Of that number, how many employees receive the maximum payment of \$500,000 annually in royalties authorized by federal law?<sup>2</sup>
  - b. Has the Secretary ever exercised the statutory authority to allow for an award greater than \$500,000?
    1. If so, how many times has that discretionary increase been approved?

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<sup>1</sup> See Patent and Trademark Amendments (“Bayh-Dole”) Act, Pub. L. 96-517, Dec. 12, 1980; see also “Enhanced Transfer of Technology Developed at Department of Defense Laboratories” and “Pilot Program to Improve Incentives for Technology Transfer from Department of Defense Laboratories,” (codified as 10 U.S.C. §4832 note).

<sup>2</sup> See *id.*

- c. What is the average royalty payment an employee receives?
  - d. What is the median royalty payment an employee receives?
2. For the patents currently held by your agency –
  - a. How many licensing agreements have been executed to authorize the use of a patent by third-parties?
  - b. How many licensing agreements are currently active?
  - c. How many new licenses were granted in each of the years for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?
  - d. How much annual revenue has been generated through the agency's licensing agreements in each of the years for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?
3. What is the average amount of revenue generated by each of the agency's active licensing agreements?
4. What is the median amount of revenue generated by each of the agency's active licensing agreements?
5. How does the agency ensure that it is receiving maximum value for the taxpayer for any licensing agreement?
6. What does the agency do with revenue generated from its licensing agreements?
  - a. Does the agency have control over these funds, or are they transferred to the U.S. Treasury?
  - b. For any revenue retained and controlled by the agency, how is that money used?
7. What conflict review mechanisms and/or processes are used by the agency to assess whether an agency employee has an impermissible conflict of interest with the evaluation and approval of research grant awards from which he or she may derive a financial benefit?

Thank you for your attention to the matter. Transparency and accountability within the federal government, agencies, and employees are critical to public trust. I look forward to your response and working together in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", with a stylized, cursive script.

Rick Scott  
United States Senator

## United States Senate

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy:

Thank you for the work you are doing to fulfill the promise made by President Trump to make our federal government more accountable and responsive to the American people, and to rein in waste, fraud, and abuse within our agencies. As a U.S. Senator and a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I have a commitment to hold the federal government accountable to the American people, and look forward to working with you to promote transparency within your agency.

Various federal laws allow government agencies and employees listed as the inventor or coinventor of a patented product to receive royalty payments for the use of that invention.<sup>7</sup> For far too long, there has been a lack of transparency surrounding licensing agreements and royalty payments within the federal government. Under current law, federal employees are not required to report the source or amount of royalty payments they receive for their government-related work. This lack of transparency prevents taxpayers from holding individuals accountable within the federal government for potential conflicts of interest and other abuse.

In order to increase transparency on the matter, I ask that you please provide answers to the following questions:

1. How many employees within your agency receive royalty payments for agency patents?
  - a. Of that number, how many employees receive the maximum payment of \$150,000 annually in royalties authorized by federal law?<sup>8</sup>
  - b. What is the average royalty payment an employee receives?
  - c. What is the median royalty payment an employee receives?

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<sup>7</sup> See Patent and Trademark Amendments ("Bayh-Dole") Act, Pub. L. 96-517, Dec. 12, 1980; see also "Enhanced Transfer of Technology Developed at Department of Defense Laboratories," codified as 10 U.S.C. §4832 note.

<sup>8</sup> See 15 U.S.C. §3710c(a)(3).

1. For the patents currently held by your agency —
  - a. How many licensing agreements have been executed to authorize the use of a patent by third-parties?
  - b. How many licensing agreements are currently active?
  - c. How many new licenses were granted in each of the years for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?
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3. What is the median amount of revenue generated by each of the agency's active licensing agreements?
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Rick Scott  
United States Senator

## United States Senate

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

Thank you for the work you are doing to fulfill the promise made by President Trump to make our federal government more accountable and responsive to the American people, and to rein in waste, fraud, and abuse within our agencies. As a U.S. Senator and a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I have a commitment to hold the federal government accountable to the American people, and look forward to working with you to promote transparency within your agency.

Various federal laws allow government agencies and employees listed as the inventor or coinventor of a patented product to receive royalty payments for the use of that invention.<sup>19</sup> For far too long, there has been a lack of transparency surrounding licensing agreements and royalty payments within the federal government. Under current law, federal employees are not required to report the source or amount of royalty payments they receive for their government-related work. This lack of transparency prevents taxpayers from holding individuals accountable within the federal government for potential conflicts of interest and other abuse.

In order to increase transparency on the matter, I ask that you please provide answers to the following questions:

1. How many employees within your agency receive royalty payments for agency patents?
  - a. Of that number, how many employees receive the maximum payment of \$150,000 annually in royalties authorized by federal law?<sup>20</sup>
  - b. What is the average royalty payment an employee receives?
  - c. What is the median royalty payment an employee receives?

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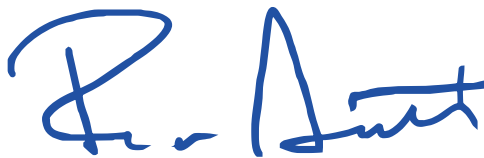
<sup>19</sup> See Patent and Trademark Amendments ("Bayh-Dole") Act, Pub. L. 96-517, Dec. 12, 1980; see also "Enhanced Transfer of Technology Developed at Department of Defense Laboratories," codified as 10 U.S.C. §4832 note.

<sup>20</sup> See 15 U.S.C. §3710c(a)(3).

1. For the patents currently held by your agency —
  - a. How many licensing agreements have been executed to authorize the use of a patent by third-parties?
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Sincerely,



Rick Scott  
United States Senator

## United States Senate

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

Thank you for the work you are doing to fulfill the promise made by President Trump to make our federal government more accountable and responsive to the American people, and to rein in waste, fraud, and abuse within our agencies. As a U.S. Senator and a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I have a commitment to hold the federal government accountable to the American people, and look forward to working with you to promote transparency within your agency.

Various federal laws allow government agencies and employees listed as the inventor or coinventor of a patented product to receive royalty payments for the use of that invention.<sup>13</sup> For far too long, there has been a lack of transparency surrounding licensing agreements and royalty payments within the federal government. Under current law, federal employees are not required to report the source or amount of royalty payments they receive for their government-related work. This lack of transparency prevents taxpayers from holding individuals accountable within the federal government for potential conflicts of interest and other abuse.

In order to increase transparency on the matter, I ask that you please provide answers to the following questions:

1. How many employees within your agency receive royalty payments for agency patents?
  - a. Of that number, how many employees receive the maximum payment of \$150,000 annually in royalties authorized by federal law?<sup>14</sup>
  - b. What is the average royalty payment an employee receives?
  - c. What is the median royalty payment an employee receives?

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<sup>13</sup> See Patent and Trademark Amendments ("Bayh-Dole") Act, Pub. L. 96-517, Dec. 12, 1980; see also "Enhanced Transfer of Technology Developed at Department of Defense Laboratories," codified as 10 U.S.C. §4832 note.

<sup>14</sup> See 15 U.S.C. §3710c(a)(3).



The Honorable Lee Zeldin

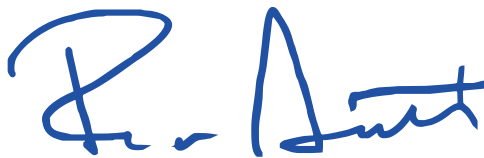
May 2, 2025

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Sincerely,

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Rick Scott  
United States Senator



## United States Senate

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

Thank you for the work you are doing to fulfill the promise made by President Trump to make our federal government more accountable and responsive to the American people, and to rein in waste, fraud, and abuse within our agencies. As a U.S. Senator and a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I have a commitment to hold the federal government accountable to the American people, and look forward to working with you to promote transparency within your agency.

Various federal laws allow government agencies and employees listed as the inventor or coinventor of a patented product to receive royalty payments for the use of that invention.<sup>5</sup> For far too long, there has been a lack of transparency surrounding licensing agreements and royalty payments within the federal government. Under current law, federal employees are not required to report the source or amount of royalty payments they receive for their government-related work. This lack of transparency prevents taxpayers from holding individuals accountable within the federal government for potential conflicts of interest and other abuse.

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1. How many employees within your agency receive royalty payments for agency patents?
  - a. Of that number, how many employees receive the maximum payment of \$150,000 annually in royalties authorized by federal law?<sup>6</sup>
  - b. What is the average royalty payment an employee receives?
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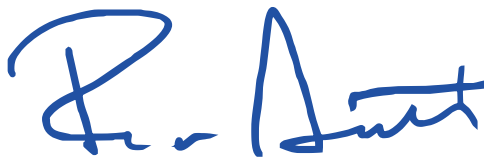
<sup>5</sup> See Patent and Trademark Amendments ("Bayh-Dole") Act, Pub. L. 96-517, Dec. 12, 1980; see also "Enhanced Transfer of Technology Developed at Department of Defense Laboratories," codified as 10 U.S.C. §4832 note.

<sup>6</sup> See 15 U.S.C. §3710c(a)(3).

1. For the patents currently held by your agency —
  - a. How many licensing agreements have been executed to authorize the use of a patent by third-parties?
  - b. How many licensing agreements are currently active?
  - c. How many new licenses were granted in each of the years for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?
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Sincerely,

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Rick Scott  
United States Senator

## United States Senate

May 2, 2025

Ms. Janet Petro  
Acting Administrator  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
300 E. Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20546

Dear Acting Administrator Petro:

Thank you for the work you are doing to fulfill the promise made by President Trump to make our federal government more accountable and responsive to the American people, and to rein in waste, fraud, and abuse within our agencies. As a U.S. Senator and a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I have a commitment to hold the federal government accountable to the American people, and look forward to working with you to promote transparency within your agency.

Various federal laws allow government agencies and employees listed as the inventor or coinventor of a patented product to receive royalty payments for the use of that invention.<sup>17</sup> For far too long, there has been a lack of transparency surrounding licensing agreements and royalty payments within the federal government. Under current law, federal employees are not required to report the source or amount of royalty payments they receive for their government-related work. This lack of transparency prevents taxpayers from holding individuals accountable within the federal government for potential conflicts of interest and other abuse.

In order to increase transparency on the matter, I ask that you please provide answers to the following questions:

1. How many employees within your agency receive royalty payments for agency patents?
  - a. Of that number, how many employees receive the maximum payment of \$150,000 annually in royalties authorized by federal law?<sup>18</sup>
  - b. What is the average royalty payment an employee receives?
  - c. What is the median royalty payment an employee receives?

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<sup>17</sup> See Patent and Trademark Amendments ("Bayh-Dole") Act, Pub. L. 96-517, Dec. 12, 1980; see also "Enhanced Transfer of Technology Developed at Department of Defense Laboratories," codified as 10 U.S.C. §4832 note.

<sup>18</sup> See 15 U.S.C. §3710c(a)(3).

Ms. Janet Petro

May 2, 2025

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Sincerely,

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Rick Scott  
United States Senator

# United States Senate

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street N.W  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

Thank you for the work you are doing to fulfill the promise made by President Trump to make our federal government more accountable and responsive to the American people, and to rein in waste, fraud, and abuse within our agencies. As a U.S. Senator and a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I have a commitment to hold the federal government accountable to the American people, and look forward to working with you to promote transparency within your agency.

Various federal laws allow government agencies and employees listed as the inventor or coinventor of a patented product to receive royalty payments for the use of that invention.<sup>3</sup> For far too long, there has been a lack of transparency surrounding licensing agreements and royalty payments within the federal government. Under current law, federal employees are not required to report the source or amount of royalty payments they receive for their government-related work. This lack of transparency prevents taxpayers from holding individuals accountable within the federal government for potential conflicts of interest and other abuse.

In order to increase transparency on the matter, I ask that you please provide answers to the following questions:

1. How many employees within your agency receive royalty payments for agency patents?
  - a. Of that number, how many employees receive the maximum payment of \$150,000 annually in royalties authorized by federal law?<sup>4</sup>
  - b. What is the average royalty payment an employee receives?
  - c. What is the median royalty payment an employee receives?

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<sup>3</sup> See Patent and Trademark Amendments ("Bayh-Dole") Act, Pub. L. 96-517, Dec. 12, 1980; see also "Enhanced Transfer of Technology Developed at Department of Defense Laboratories," codified as 10 U.S.C. §4832 note.

<sup>4</sup> See 15 U.S.C. §3710c(a)(3).

The Honorable Doug Burgum

May 2, 2025

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1. For the patents currently held by your agency —
  - a. How many licensing agreements have been executed to authorize the use of a patent by third-parties?
  - b. How many licensing agreements are currently active?
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Sincerely,

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Rick Scott  
United States Senator

## United States Senate

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Doug Collins  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Collins:

Thank you for the work you are doing to fulfill the promise made by President Trump to make our federal government more accountable and responsive to the American people, and to rein in waste, fraud, and abuse within our agencies. As a U.S. Senator and a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I have a commitment to hold the federal government accountable to the American people, and look forward to working with you to promote transparency within your agency.

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  - a. Of that number, how many employees receive the maximum payment of \$150,000 annually in royalties authorized by federal law?<sup>10</sup>
  - b. What is the average royalty payment an employee receives?
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The Honorable Doug Collins

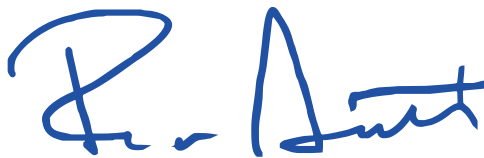
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Rick Scott  
United States Senator

## United States Senate

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Chris Wright  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Wright:

Thank you for the work you are doing to fulfill the promise made by President Trump to make our federal government more accountable and responsive to the American people, and to rein in waste, fraud, and abuse within our agencies. As a U.S. Senator and a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I have a commitment to hold the federal government accountable to the American people, and look forward to working with you to promote transparency within your agency.

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In order to increase transparency on the matter, I ask that you please provide answers to the following questions:

1. How many employees within your agency receive royalty payments for agency patents?
  - a. Of that number, how many employees receive the maximum payment of \$150,000 annually in royalties authorized by federal law?<sup>12</sup>
  - b. What is the average royalty payment an employee receives?
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The Honorable Chris Wright

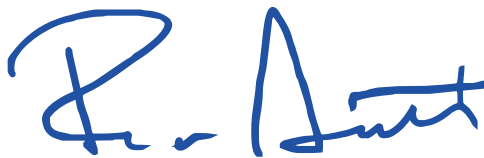
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  - a. How many licensing agreements have been executed to authorize the use of a patent by third-parties?
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  - c. How many new licenses were granted in each of the years for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?
  - d. How much annual revenue has been generated through the agency's licensing agreements in each of the years for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?
2. What is the average amount of revenue generated by each of the agency's active licensing agreements?
3. What is the median amount of revenue generated by each of the agency's active licensing agreements?
4. How does the agency ensure that it is receiving maximum value for the taxpayer for any licensing agreement?
5. What does the agency do with revenue generated from its licensing agreements?
  - a. Does the agency have control over these funds, or are they transferred to the U.S. Treasury?
  - b. For any revenue retained and controlled by the agency, how is that money used?
6. What conflict review mechanisms and/or processes are used by the agency to assess whether an agency employee has an impermissible conflict of interest with the evaluation and approval of research grant awards from which he or she may derive a financial benefit?

Thank you for your attention to the matter. Transparency and accountability within the federal government, agencies, and employees are critical to public trust. I look forward to your response and working together in the future.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott  
United States Senator

## United States Senate

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

Thank you for the work you are doing to fulfill the promise made by President Trump to make our federal government more accountable and responsive to the American people, and to rein in waste, fraud, and abuse within our agencies. As a U.S. Senator and a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I have a commitment to hold the federal government accountable to the American people, and look forward to working with you to promote transparency within your agency.

Various federal laws allow government agencies and employees listed as the inventor or coinventor of a patented product to receive royalty payments for the use of that invention.<sup>1</sup> For far too long, there has been a lack of transparency surrounding licensing agreements and royalty payments within the federal government. Under current law, federal employees are not required to report the source or amount of royalty payments they receive for their government-related work. This lack of transparency prevents taxpayers from holding individuals accountable within the federal government for potential conflicts of interest and other abuse.

In order to increase transparency on the matter, I ask that you please provide answers to the following questions:

1. How many employees within your agency receive royalty payments for agency patents?
  - a. Of that number, how many employees receive the maximum payment of \$150,000 annually in royalties authorized by federal law?<sup>2</sup>
  - b. What is the average royalty payment an employee receives?
  - c. What is the median royalty payment an employee receives?

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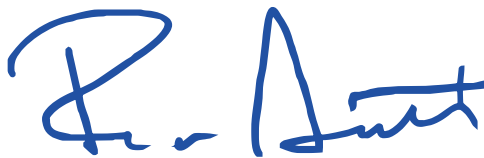
<sup>1</sup> See Patent and Trademark Amendments ("Bayh-Dole") Act, Pub. L. 96-517, Dec. 12, 1980; see also "Enhanced Transfer of Technology Developed at Department of Defense Laboratories," codified as 10 U.S.C. §4832 note.

<sup>2</sup> See 15 U.S.C. §3710c(a)(3).

1. For the patents currently held by your agency —
  - a. How many licensing agreements have been executed to authorize the use of a patent by third-parties?
  - b. How many licensing agreements are currently active?
  - c. How many new licenses were granted in each of the years for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?
  - d. How much annual revenue has been generated through the agency's licensing agreements in each of the years for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?
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4. How does the agency ensure that it is receiving maximum value for the taxpayer for any licensing agreement?
5. What does the agency do with revenue generated from its licensing agreements?
  - a. Does the agency have control over these funds, or are they transferred to the U.S. Treasury?
  - b. For any revenue retained and controlled by the agency, how is that money used?
6. What conflict review mechanisms and/or processes are used by the agency to assess whether an agency employee has an impermissible conflict of interest with the evaluation and approval of research grant awards from which he or she may derive a financial benefit?

Thank you for your attention to the matter. Transparency and accountability within the federal government, agencies, and employees are critical to public trust. I look forward to your response and working together in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", with a stylized, cursive script.

Rick Scott  
United States Senator

## United States Senate

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Robert Kennedy  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

Thank you for the work you are doing to fulfill the promise made by President Trump to make our federal government more accountable and responsive to the American people, and to rein in waste, fraud, and abuse within our agencies. As a U.S. Senator and a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I have a commitment to hold the federal government accountable to the American people, and look forward to working with you to promote transparency within your agency.

Various federal laws allow government agencies and employees listed as the inventor or coinventor of a patented product to receive royalty payments for the use of that invention.<sup>15</sup> For far too long, there has been a lack of transparency surrounding licensing agreements and royalty payments within the federal government. Under current law, federal employees are not required to report the source or amount of royalty payments they receive for their government-related work. This lack of transparency prevents taxpayers from holding individuals accountable within the federal government for potential conflicts of interest and other abuse.

In order to increase transparency on the matter, I ask that you please provide answers to the following questions:

1. How many employees within your agency receive royalty payments for agency patents?
  - a. Of that number, how many employees receive the maximum payment of \$150,000 annually in royalties authorized by federal law?<sup>16</sup>
  - b. What is the average royalty payment an employee receives?
  - c. What is the median royalty payment an employee receives?

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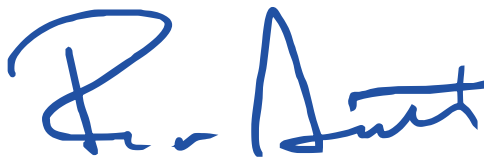
<sup>15</sup> See Patent and Trademark Amendments ("Bayh-Dole") Act, Pub. L. 96-517, Dec. 12, 1980; see also "Enhanced Transfer of Technology Developed at Department of Defense Laboratories," codified as 10 U.S.C. §4832 note.

<sup>16</sup> See 15 U.S.C. §3710c(a)(3).

1. For the patents currently held by your agency —
  - a. How many licensing agreements have been executed to authorize the use of a patent by third-parties?
  - b. How many licensing agreements are currently active?
  - c. How many new licenses were granted in each of the years for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024?
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Thank you for your attention to the matter. Transparency and accountability within the federal government, agencies, and employees are critical to public trust. I look forward to your response and working together in the future.

Sincerely,

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Rick Scott  
United States Senator