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**From:** Linda Pollock [mailto:lindapollock@att.net]

**Sent:** Tue 5/2/2006 12:27 PM

**To:** AB93Comments

**Cc:**

**Subject:** Changes in Continuations

Dear Commissioner Doll,

I understand that the changes in the claims process will have a huge impact on my ability to continue in my work as an independent inventor. These changes directly affect my livelihood, to the point where I might not be able to continue my work.

I am an independent inventor, and due to my parent's health and the fact that I have young children, I must work from home to be available for my family. My funds are extremely limited, and all development, marketing and patent costs must come out of pocket at the expense of something else in my life.

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 also understand that the proposed rules will force me to file additional applications, all on the same day, and that the proposed rules will force me to file many additional claims in my applications. I can't afford this. The process is already daunting enough to the independent inventor. Isn't there a way to make the process easier instead of more costly and complicated?

What can you do to keep it so the independent inventor can survive? I understand that the process seems slow. Wouldn't it be possible to hire more examiners instead of penalizing those who can't afford it. By your own numbers, the recent increases in examiner hiring has stabilized the time to examine applications. And, after all, don't we already pay for the USPTO as a tax payer?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

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