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**From:** Alan Regala [mailto:alan@everydayinnovations.com]

**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2006 1:03 AM

**To:** AB93Comments

**Subject:** Continuation practice

Dear Commissioner Doll,

I am an independent inventor and entrepreneur. I have a very limited budget for development and marketing of my invention. 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 understand that the proposed rules will result in a lower chance of me successfully creating and selling my invention.

I want you to understand that the proposed rules will significantly impact my small company's ability to do sound product development and protect our ideas from larger companies with more money.

Rather than changing the continuation rules, I recommend that you continue to increase 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. Thank you for your consideration of my recommendations.

Sincerely,  
*Alan Regala*

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