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House Resolution Honors 30th Anniversary of the Bayh-Dole Act

Deerfield, IL - December 12, 2010 will mark the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Bayh-Dole Act. To mark the occasion, Rep. John Conyers has sponsored a House Resolution honoring the Act.

Rep. Conyers will also speak at the Bayh-Dole 30th anniversary event taking place on Wednesday, December 1 at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. The event is organized by the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM), along with the American Council on Education, Association of American Universities, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and the Biotechnology Industry Organization. Event organizers have also launched a Web site, B-D30.org, that shares articles and information about the Bayh-Dole Act and includes an interactive map that shows the impact the Bayh-Dole Act has had throughout the United States.

“The Bayh-Dole Act has resulted in more than 7,000 new U.S. companies that have been formed specifically to develop university technologies,” says AUTM President Ashley J. Stevens, D. Phil. (Oxon), CLP. “By far the majority of these startups are located in the licensing institution’s home state, so the Bayh-Dole Act has had a positive impact on local economies throughout the country,” adds Stevens.

“The Bayh-Dole Act has been particularly important in the creation of the biotechnology industry, an industry where the United States leads the world. BIO’s research shows that half of our U.S. member companies were formed by technologies licensed from others, and more than 75% have licensing agreements in place with universities,” says Jim Greenwood, President and CEO of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO).

Enacted on December 12, 1980, the Bayh-Dole Act created a uniform patent policy among the many federal agencies that fund research, enabling small businesses and non-profit organizations, including universities, to retain title to inventions made under federally-funded research programs. In the years since the Act was passed, universities have established offices of technology development tasked with forming partnerships with the private sector to develop these inventions, and in the process universities have become an integral part of the nation’s innovation ecosystem.

About AUTM

The Association of University Technology Managers is a nonprofit organization with an international membership of more than 3,000 technology managers and business executives. AUTM members — managers of intellectual property, one of the most active growth sectors of the global economy — come from more than 300 universities, research institutions and teaching hospitals as well as numerous businesses and government organizations.

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