

Senator Barbara Mikulski
Washington, DC
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



January 30, 2014

Dear Senator Mikulski:

I am a small business owner in Frederick, Maryland. My company produces risk management software to keep the food Americans eat safe.

Last year, we discovered that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) plagiarized my doctoral research, infringed on my patents and stole my trade secrets. The FDA used my little company's intellectual property to duplicate, at taxpayer's expense, the same products that we were already selling to industry at a fraction of the cost. To add insult to injury, the FDA copyrighted, as property of the U.S. Government, the software tools they duplicated based on my company's intellectual property.

In January of last year, I wrote to you asking for your help to arrange for a meeting with Food and Drug Administration officials to help us resolve the situation. When we contacted your office we were told that you could not assure that any meeting would occur and surely enough no meeting has ever taken place. We were told that you would not help us because our case was too complex, dealt with legal issues and that your office had a conflict of interest in dealing with our case. We assumed that this conflict of interest meant the huge presence of the FDA in Maryland as one of the most important elements of your constituent base. Then we wrote to Senator Cardin for help. Senator Cardin told us that he would not help us either saying that we needed to work with your office.

Because your staff would not give us an e-mail address to communicate, we nonetheless sent your office hundreds of faxes trying to keep you apprised of our situation and begging for help time and time again. No help from your staff was ever forthcoming. Samples of just a few of the documents we have sent to you over the past year are attached. Our last request for help sat around for over a month. Our original request was faxed directly to your office since your staff refused to give us an e-mail address.

Because our pleas for help were ignored our lives are now in ruins. Our business is failing because the FDA duplicated and gave away our products for free, we were forced to lay off all of our employees, one of our former employees lost his house, and our retirement savings are completely gone. We have not received a paycheck in over a year. I personally have been humiliated by being forced, for the first time in my life, to have to accept unemployment insurance which has now been cut-off by the Congress. I care for my two elderly parents and the electricity was recently cut off because I cannot afford to pay the bill. And, the list goes on and on.

I still cannot believe that you would ignore the pleas of one of your constituents intentionally and can only conclude that your staff has badly failed you. I am hoping that Shannon Kula will personally share this letter with you to make you aware of the extended order effects of what has happened.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Hnatio".

John H. Hnatio, EdD, PhD
Chief Science Officer

cc: Shannon Kula
Bart Kennedy

FoodQuestTQ LLC, 4720 Hayward Drive, Frederick, Maryland 21702 Telephone 240-439-4476 ext. 11