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July 26, 2018

Mr. David Chiles
Acting Chief Information Officer and
Senior Agency Official for Records Management
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313
david.chiles@uspto.gov

Dear Mr. Chiles:

We were recently made aware of utility patent drawings that are offered for sale on eBay. They were discovered on eBay by a National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) employee who referred the information to the NARA Inspector General staff who, in turn, alerted my staff about the issue. Here is the link to the drawings in question:

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/L-Carrier-Thrashing-Machine-Tooth-Original-Patent-Jan-17-1882-Original-Doc/232771098354?hash=item36323d16f2:g:E4QAAOSwDZ1a~FKu>

Upon receiving this information, we contacted NARA's cartographic office Branch Chief, Pete Brauer, and after conducting research, he verified that the patent numbers within these drawings are not among our holdings and that the characteristics of the documents lead him to believe that they are original patent drawings that likely should have already been accessioned to the National Archives.

We respectfully request that you conduct an investigation into this matter and send us a report of your findings in the next 60 days. For more information on how to report the unlawful or accidental removal of records from your legal custody, please see 36 CFR, Part 1230:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=2cb32d56fb6af59e4b4ee022f092b321&mc=true&node=pt36.3.1230&rgn=div5>

If you have follow up questions about this matter, please contact Kate Flaherty, Supervisor, at (301) 837-1706, or by email to kate.flaherty@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence v. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government

cc:
Marcie Lovett
USPTO Records Officer (Acting)
marcie.lovett@uspto.gov

Kate Flaherty
Supervisor, ACR3