



Connecticut United for Research Excellence, Inc.

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The Center of Connecticut's BioScience Cluster

January 30, 2012

The Honorable David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
US Department of Commerce
Madison Buildings (East & West)
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Re: Response to Request for Comments: Nationwide Workforce Program
Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

On behalf of Connecticut United for Research Excellence (CURE), I am writing to express our strong support for the state of Connecticut's proposal to host a satellite office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

Connecticut, and specifically the Hartford metropolitan region, is an ideal location for the USPTO to locate a regional office. Among all requirements cited by USPTO in its invitation for proposals, Connecticut presents a compelling case, including its locale, mature and advanced economy, talent pool, cost and standard of living, and mix of modern transportation options.

Connecticut is uniquely situated in the Northeast and therefore a strong choice for a USPTO office. Hartford is equidistant from Boston and New York, and Portland and Atlantic City. As part of the New York and Boston spheres of activity, Connecticut, and specifically the Hartford area, can draw from both areas more conveniently than either can draw from the other. USPTO state-level data to estimate applications filed within a 150 mile radius of Hartford shows that if that region were its own state, it would be second only to California in the number of patent applications filed. The following cities lie within a 150 mile radius of downtown Hartford: Hanover, Manchester, Boston, Providence, Worcester, Springfield, New Haven, Stamford, Albany, Poughkeepsie and New York City.

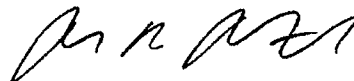
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Connecticut's economic prospects in emerging advanced industries, like bioscience, are bright. Connecticut's biopharma cluster is robust, employing nearly 12,000 persons directly and almost 54,000 in related industries and services. It includes almost 50 companies, Yale University, the University of Connecticut, an array of research institutions and biomedical service providers and, perhaps most importantly, strong connections to and relationships with biopharma entities within all of New England and across the Eastern Seaboard. The average salary for Connecticut biopharma workers is \$113,722 (total direct Connecticut biopharma wages paid annually are \$1.2 billion) and the Connecticut biopharma sector spends \$3.9 billion annually on research and development (the research foci of Connecticut's biopharma companies and research universities are broad, encompassing all major disease groups). Seventy percent of venture capital investment in Connecticut is captured by biopharma companies.

Simply put, Connecticut is an ideal center for a USPTO satellite office given the intellectual property created within the borders coupled to its geographic proximity and institutional connections in the Northeast and along the entire East Coast.

If you require additional information or would like me to amplify any of the points made above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Paul R. Pescatello, JD, PhD
President/CEO

c: Peter R. Farina, PhD, CURE Co-Chair
David W. Keiser, CURE Co-Chair