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January 25, 2012

Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent & Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Undersecretary and Director
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: PTO-C-2011-0066; the Nationwide Workforce Program

Dear Mr. Khan,

Every month, the MIT Enterprise Forum of Cambridge works with entrepreneurs who are in the various stages of protecting intellectual property in order to bring it to the commercial market. Our legal sponsors also have significant practices devoted to intellectual property and routinely bring in new attorneys and patent agents in order to provide the local entrepreneurs with the best advice. MIT Enterprise Forum of Cambridge programs are steeped in providing our audience with guidance and advice on understanding and accessing the patent and trademark system.

Intellectual property is at the heart of the innovation economy here in Massachusetts and New England. It is not concentrated in one industry, but covers a diversity of technologies. This diversity provides a unique opportunity to train and retain patent examiners – things will never be boring! In return, the Patent Office will have a unique opportunity to work with the local entrepreneurial ecosystem to better improve the patent and trademark process, and even recruit examiners from the many legal and technology-trained individuals in the region.

We urge you to consider Massachusetts as the location for the next satellite USPTO office.

Sincerely,



Trish Fleming
Executive Director