



"World Class Incubators for World Class Science"

January 5, 2012

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

RE: Docket Number PTO-C-2011-0066; "Nationwide Workforce Program"

Dear Azam:

As you are aware, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) recently requested comments regarding its announcement of at least three regional U.S. Patent Offices. Pursuant to the America Invents Act (AIA) of 2011, one of the satellite offices will be located in Detroit, Michigan, and at least two more satellite offices will be located elsewhere in the United States. The USPTO has requested comments with regard to where the remaining satellite offices should be located, which is why the Boston Patent Law Association (BPLA) is contacting you, and, of which I am full agreement of their position.

The BPLA stakeholders, of which MBI in support, write to urge the selection of Massachusetts as a satellite office venue. The USPTO is creating the satellite offices to aid in decreasing the backlog of patent applications and to create better connections with patent applicants and innovators. Therefore, our critical mass of innovators, universities, patent attorneys, numbers of patent applications filed and culture of employee commitment to employers here in Massachusetts are extremely important factors in sighting this office here.

The BPLA believes, as I do, that we will all benefit from the USPTO's ability to hire and retain not only recent graduates of the many prestigious Massachusetts and New England academic institutions, but also seasoned scientific, engineering, and legal professionals who want to change careers and serve the patent system while continuing to be members of our world class scientific, engineering, legal, educational, and entrepreneurial Massachusetts communities.

Your careful review in considering a satellite office in Massachusetts is critical to our innovation economy. Please render a positive decision and outcome as a result of our urgent request. Thank you for your hopeful acceptance of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. O'Sullivan", written in a cursive style.

Kevin O'Sullivan
President & CEO