

January 17, 2012

Mr. David Kappos, Director
United States Patent and Trademark Office
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Director Kappos:

It is our understanding that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is considering North Carolina and specifically the Research Triangle Park (RTP) area, as a future location for a regional USPTO office.

The RTP region is a business and university research collaboration model that officials from around the world have tried to emulate. Businesses locate in this region to leverage access to world-class University research and collaboration with other technology companies in the region. The region's business, education and policy leaders continue to collaborate together to ensure this area is a world leader in innovation and research. Because of this area's rich history in innovation and plans to grow the area in targeted clusters such as biotech, analytics, energy and healthcare, the RTP is a natural choice to locate a USPTO regional office.

SAS' World Headquarters is located in the RTP area and employs over 4,500 workers at our campus. Our cutting edge analytic research is performed at our headquarters and many of our innovative ideas are developed here. We actively submit patent applications for review by the USPTO staff and believe a regional office located in this area will lead to deeper collaboration with the USPTO staff. This deeper collaboration will lead to better research efficiencies for the company.

We look forward to following the decision process and welcome any questions you may have. Please let us know if you have further questions as to why we believe this area is the best candidate for a regional center. We also invite you to visit our campus if you are ever in the area.

Sincerely,



John G. Boswell
Senior Vice-President and Chief Legal Officer