

The Honorable John Bryson  
Secretary  
United States Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

January 23, 2012

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write in support of the persuasive arguments articulated by Senator Wyden and others for locating a satellite site of the Patent and Trademark Office in Oregon, in the letter filed with your office this past November 18.

I am a co-founder and the CEO of Coelo Company of Design, a small software consultancy in Corvallis, Oregon. Coelo may be a quintessentially American innovation story: we started as a two-person consulting shop in 1999, and have grown to a technical staff of fourteen in the past twelve years, without outside investment. We pride ourselves on our independence, technical capabilities, and can-do spirit. We intend to grow further, while retaining our essential character, whereby technical innovators are in control of their own destinies.

An emerging imperative in our evolution is the need to contribute our own ideas to the world market for the good of all, while we continue to provide sterling service to our valued consulting clients. We have already bootstrapped one software product to the beta test stage, and have another in the early prototyping stage. We have co-participated in an innovative SBIR application with another local firm, and served as a technology partner in an NSF-funded investigation by the Oregon State University Machine Learning Laboratory. Cumulatively, our people are responsible in whole or in part for five patent applications, two of which have been successful.

As a small business, we know that the odds are against us. But we believe that companies like ours still have a vital role to play in the ecosystem of American innovation: we pursue niche markets, novel approaches, and exciting ideas that don't make the radar screens of the big corporations, and we get prototypes done in a fraction of the relative time and cost.

Locating the satellite Patent and Trademark Office in Oregon would be a significant boon to businesses like ours. Part of our R&D strategy is a goal of five to eight meritorious software patent applications within the next five years. Having the USPTO in physical proximity would be of immeasurable help to us and numerous other small companies like us in this area.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your service to the cause of American innovation!

Sincerely,

Carl D. Niedner, President  
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