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To: SatelliteOffices

Subject: satellite office public comments as solicited on USPTO weekly Dec 8, 2011

Satellite office comments from the perspective of a Michigan based hoteling examiner:

1. Some employees may appreciate if the satellite office is not in the city of Detroit itself as the city charges a 1-2.5% city income tax depending on an employee's residency. Michigan has about fifteen cities that charge a city income tax. Eligible off-site remote employees will know that they can "hotel" to a no income tax city just outside Detroit, and receive an effective 1-2.5% yearly pay raise (note: different cities have different city tax rates), thus, it would seem that an office in one of these cities would see a higher employee participation in the off-site programs. This would create a penalty for employees working in the satellite office, and may create disruption as employees look to avoid the penalty.

2. Some employees may appreciate that a potential site is surveyed in the winter when roads are icy, and during the morning commute. This is especially true of a potential Detroit location. Employees are likely to be in the top 10% of wage earners for the region. This means that they will not likely be living in Detroit. They will likely be living in one of the wealthier, safer suburban areas. Thus, they will have to commute. The commute along I-96 East to Detroit is commonly jammed during the morning commuting hours, and traffic is slow due to ice, and snowfall. Some employees may appreciate if the satellite office is commuter friendly.

3. Some employees may appreciate if the transportation subsidy is broadened to include the satellite office region. Presently, the transportation subsidy is useable only for the Alexandria, VA office region. The subsidy could include the monthly public transportation cost to/from an employee's home to the satellite office and the public transportation from the satellite office to the Alexandria office when the employee is required to visit the Alexandria office.

4. Presently, the USPTO CFC charity program only applies to the DC region. Thus, even if an employee identifies a Michigan based charity and finds the CFC charity organization code for that charity, the employee cannot donate money through the USPTO CFC program to that Michigan based charity.

5. Michigan based USPTO remote employees, like hoteling employees, might appreciate if the remote office can be used to meet any in-office mandatory training requirements, in-office reporting requirements, or ethics training.

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