



January 20, 2012

David Kappos, Director
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Kappos:

The North Carolina Partnership for Economic Development (NCPED) is a private non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] comprising the state's seven regional economic development partnerships and the N.C. Department of Commerce. Our organization serves an advocacy role for innovation-based job creation and economic advancement strategies that enable all North Carolina communities to prosper in the 21st Century economy. Along with N.C. Secretary of Commerce Keith Crisco, I co-chair NCPED's board of directors, which includes the chairs of all seven regional partnerships.

I am writing on behalf of NCPED to express my hope that your office will give serious consideration of North Carolina as a destination for a USPTO satellite office. Our state is home to myriad unique assets and amenities that make it the ideal backdrop for one of these offices. Here are a few examples:

- North Carolina's global reputation for higher education excellence provides not just reliable supplies of engineers, scientists and technology-savvy professionals; our public and private universities are unparalleled in their capacity to reach beyond the campus and seed new intellectual capital into the real economy. The spirit of partnership that exists here between education and business manifests itself in all corners of the state, where university-based experts and private-sector innovators collaborate freely in moving newly forged ideas into the realm of commerce.
- The state has proven itself fertile ground for emerging technologies and technical solutions. IBM Corporation, which employs 10,000 workers in North Carolina, gained 6,180 patents in 2011, the most of any U.S. firm. The company's facilities in North Carolina contributed 645 to this total. Homegrown companies such as Cree, Red Hat and SAS Institute also regularly earn numerous patents on their pioneering work.
- North Carolina is home to several of the nation's most prestigious law schools, producing well-trained attorneys with specialized knowledge of intellectual property law and related specialties.

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(Anderson to Kappos, 1/20/12, p. 2)

- Our state has long been home to large numbers of federal government operations and employees. The Research Triangle Region, for instance, hosts sizable facilities of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Defense laboratories. Eastern North Carolina is the backdrop for large and growing U.S. military bases -- including Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro and the Marine Corps' Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville. A large number of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees and U.S. Coast Guard personnel live and work in coastal communities such as Wilmington and Elizabeth City. So comfortable and welcoming is North Carolina to transplanted federal employees and military personnel that large numbers of them opt to make North Carolina their permanent home when they exit or retire from the federal service.
- The state's attractive and affordable quality of life draws legions of new residents each year. Complementing the pleasant climate, eclectic geography and convenient location they enjoy here are an openness and hospitality that enable arriving streams of diverse residents from across the United States and the world to quickly feel part of their community. Similarly, North Carolina is an appealing destination for individuals at all stages of life and career.

Few states can match North Carolina when it comes to being a winning destination for innovative ideas and people. I believe our state is a natural choice for a USPTO satellite office and ask that you give every consideration to our complete inventory of assets, amenities and opportunities. As you move forward in your selection, please also know that our organization is available to serve as a resource should you require any information or additional perspective we can offer.

Yours sincerely,



Calvin C. Anderson
Co-Chairman

cc: J. Keith Crisco, NCPED Co-Chairman