

January 24, 2012

Via email to: satelliteoffices@uspto.gov

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Re: Satellite PTO Office in Oregon

Dear Sir:

I am writing to express my strong support for the PTO opening a satellite office in Oregon. The mere fact that the PTO is opening satellite offices is very encouraging because it will improve many aspects of the patent system. But even more exciting is the possibility of an office in Oregon.

I am a patent attorney practicing in a two-attorney firm. I have practiced in Oregon for over 20 years and am based in Central Oregon (I think that in the entire eastern half of the state, I am one of perhaps two registered patent attorneys). My partner is in Portland where there are of course more practitioners. Most of my clients are businesses located in Oregon and I am constantly amazed at the ingenuity of inventors in the Northwest. For a small state we have a very active and engaged patent bar. I believe that the PTO will find that the Oregon patent bar will work hard to assist the PTO in getting an Oregon office up and running. Oregon works hard to be a technology hub and an office here will be strongly supported.

Oregon is known for its innovators and has attracted many companies that are very active patent filers. From biotech, hardware and software to medical instruments and everything in between, Oregon and west coast businesses would greatly benefit from an Oregon office. An office located in Oregon would spur innovation and connect west coast inventors with an agency that until now has been largely out of touch with westerners. An Oregon office would be a strong message to innovators that their work is taking root. Assuming that west-coast applicants would have their applications examined locally, an Oregon office would surely decrease PTO pendency times, too.

The higher education system in the Northwest generally, and Oregon specifically, is among the best in the nation and we have a wealth of highly educated and skilled people living in the Northwest who would be ideal candidates for examiners. The PTO would find that recruiting highly qualified candidates would be relatively easy if they were able to stay here, or relocate to the Northwest. People who live here do not want to leave and the PTO could expect that employee retention rates would be very high.

Thank you for your consideration of Oregon for a PTO office. I am more than happy to contribute in any way that I am asked.

Sincerely,



Douglas D. Hancock