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January 23, 2012

David Kappos
Director
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Kappos:

On behalf of the Downtown Denver Partnership, it is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office selecting Metro Denver as the location for a regional patent office.

The Downtown Denver Partnership is a 55-year old, private-sector non-profit business organization that works to support the 5,000 Downtown businesses, 400 commercial property owners and 110,000 employees in the largest business district in the Rocky Mountain region. As a partner of the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation, the Partnership also works directly with local economic development agencies to recruit and retain businesses within Colorado's innovative industry clusters, including energy, aerospace, bioscience, software and telecommunications. Examples of Downtown companies within these clusters are EnCana Oil & Gas, DaVita, Suncor Energy, CenturyLink, MapQuest, Ping Identity, BP America and Anadarko Petroleum.

By selecting the Metro Denver area, you will have access to numerous existing research universities and federal agencies and laboratories. In Downtown Denver alone, we are home to the Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC): Metro State University, University of Colorado at Denver, and the Community College of Denver, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 8 headquarters. With access to these and other key research laboratories, including the National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden Colorado, our state offers a large number of technology workers that could serve as excellent long-term patent examiners.

The Downtown Denver Partnership is particularly proud of its collaboration with the state on the Colorado Innovation Network (COIN), a public enterprise that seeks to increase the state's reputation for innovative industries and to boost the amount of jobs and capital going to companies in that sector. In addition, the Partnership is working with AHEC to establish a public/private business incubation center that can leverage the proximity of the three institutions of higher education to the Downtown business community.

VISION

MISSION

EXPERIENCE

ENVIRONMENT

CONNECTIONS

LEADERSHIP

Our access to innovation and talent are two of the many reasons why the Downtown Denver Partnership believes you should select Colorado as the location for a regional patent office. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ferd Belz", written in a cursive style.

Ferd Belz
Chair, Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc.

Cc: Monisha Merchant, US Senator Michael Bennet's Office
Pam Reichert, Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation