I think having a satellite PTO office in the western part of the country makes a lot of sense for the following reasons:

1) The PTO is missing out on a lot of talent by not having an office somewhere in the western half of the country. When I first started at the PTO in 2007, my fellow new hires (about 100 people) were asked to raise their hand if they had come from west of the Mississippi River. About 3 of us raised our hands.

2) Geographically a western satellite PTO only makes sense. Very few, if any, of my in person interviews are with attorneys and clients from the western part of the country. It is an over 5 hour flight to get to DC from California. There is no practical way to conduct in person business in a timely or economic fashion with people in the western part of the country.

3) The DC area is a very expensive and crowded place to live. Whereas the DC area excels in cultural events and activities, it is extremely difficult to access outdoor activities. Not everyone is well suited to live in an East Coast city.

For at least these reasons, a satellite office in any of Denver, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles or San Francisco makes sense.

Thank you for soliciting public comment on the topic of future satellite offices and for taking the time to consider my input.

Kortney Klinkel