

January 30, 2012

The Honorable John Bryson  
Secretary  
United States Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Bryson:

Chernoff Vilhauer LLP is a "boutique" intellectual property law firm and has been prosecuting and enforcing patents in Portland, Oregon for over 40 years. The firm strongly supports the opening of a satellite Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO") in Oregon.

From timber industry innovations in the 1970s, to the medical devices and high-tech industries of today, Oregon has historically been and remains a center of innovation and technological achievement. The placement of a PTO satellite office in this state would greatly benefit the continuing development of Oregon technology by offering inventors and their attorneys convenient access to patent examiners. This proximity would be an invaluable aid to the continued growth of Oregon's high tech and other innovative industries.

Oregon would welcome a satellite PTO office and offers many benefits, including an ample, educated work force that is well versed in many high tech areas. These people would be immediately available to work as patent examiners in the fields that require advanced knowledge. Oregon is also a wonderful place to live and offers a combination of natural beauty and livability rivaling anywhere on our nation's West Coast. Mountain climbing, skiing, unmatched fishing and beautiful ocean beaches are abundant within Oregon's borders. Living in Oregon is also substantially less expensive than in its neighboring states, California and Washington. If a satellite PTO office were located in Oregon, these livability factors would greatly aid the hiring and retention of PTO employees.

The central location of Oregon relative to the other western states would facilitate access to examiners for inventors and attorneys located in all the western states. An Oregon satellite PTO office would enhance communication with West Coast inventors by being in the same time zone, and by making face-to-face interviews more practical. This should contribute to the economy of the United States as well as the local economy, by accelerating the examination of applications and granting of patents.

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We sincerely hope that Oregon's host of positives lead to placement of a satellite PTO office in Oregon.

Very truly yours,



Donald B. Haslett  
Managing Partner

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