



January 30, 2012

Mr. David Kappos
Under Secretary for Intellectual Property
Director for the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Department of Commerce
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

Section 23 of the America Invents Act requires the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to establish three satellite offices to carry out its responsibilities. We write to encourage USPTO to select Northern California as one of the locations for a satellite office.

Northern California, specifically the Silicon Valley, is one of our nation's leading innovation hubs. A satellite office in northern California is ideally situated to service the surrounding innovation centers, including southern California, Salt Lake City and Seattle. This is an effective use of taxpayer dollars when we are facing trillions of dollars in debt.

As you know, two of the goals of Section 23 are to "enhance patent examiner retention" and "improve recruitment of patent examiners." Northern California is consistently ranked as one of the best places to live and home to many innovative technology companies and world-class universities. Therefore, USPTO could not find a better location to recruit and retain talented patent examiners. In addition, these universities and their Noble Prize winning research are responsible for the most cutting-edge research in the world and greatly rely on the patent system.

Furthermore, Northern California is a world leader in hardware, software, search, social media, biotechnology and clean energy. As you know, these industries engage in significant innovation and thus rely heavily on the patent system.

Finally, Silicon Valley's entrepreneurial spirit and innovation-focused universities cause the area to be home to many start-up companies that need timely and high-quality patent examination. Start-ups employ many graduates of these universities and often grow out of garages and into viable small, medium and Fortune 100 sized businesses.

We urge you to please carefully consider Silicon Valley as one of the three locations for the next satellite USPTO offices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Splinter".

Michael Splinter
President & CEO
Applied Materials

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mo Qayoumi".

Mo Qayoumi
President
San Jose State University



Enrique Salem
President & CEO
Symantec Corporation



Bob Dykes
Executive Vice President & CEO
VeriFone



Mitch Gaynor
Executive VP, General Counsel & Secretary
Juniper Networks



Brian Cabrera
General Counsel, Vice President
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Synopsis



Rachel Sheinbein
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Steve Westly
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David Hochschild
President & CEO
Solaria



Ari Hershowitz
President & CEO
Tabulaw, Inc



Gregory S. Lang
President & CEO
PMC-Sierra, Inc.



Chris Greene
President & CEO
PM Greene Engineers



Bryan Martin
President & CEO
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George Blumenthal
Chancellor
University of California, Santa Cruz



Mary Dent
General Counsel & Secretary
Silicon Valley Bank



Bernie McKay
Chief Public Policy Officer
Intuit



Leroy Morishita
President
California State University, East Bay



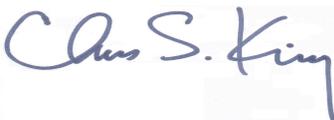
Melanie Haratunian
Senior Vice President & General Counsel
Akamai Technologies



Eric Dresselhuys
Executive Vice President
Silver Spring Networks



Josh Richman
Vice President, Business Development
Bloom Energy



Chris King
Chief Regulatory Officer
eMeter



Eve Bukowski
Executive Director, California
TechNet