

January 26, 2012

Director David Kappos  
USPTO Headquarters –  
Main Campus Address Madison Buildings (East & West)  
600 Dulany St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**RE: PTO-C-2011-0066 - Placement of US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in California.**

Dear Director Kappos:

The Orange County Business Council, representing the largest and most innovative employers in America's sixth largest county, supports the placement of a United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in California.

Innovation has become the key driver of economic growth in today's knowledge economy. And if it's important in regular times, it's essential in periods of economic crises like today. California, with its great hubs of academic research, has become one of the innovation powerhouses in America.

California is home to the country's top ranking public and private universities, colleges, and masters programs in engineering, science and law. Further, its UC Technology Transfer Program is first among U.S. universities, both in terms of the number of patents granted and in the number of successfully commercialized inventions — more than 1,000 inventions a year.

It is also a state that encourages the growth of its home-grown ideas. California leads the country for venture capital, receiving four times more venture capital (as a share of gross state product) than the national average. As for history, 17 percent of all the patents issued in the history of the U.S. have originated in California and that is more than twice the number originating from the next closest state (New York).

California has a unique and thriving environment for the USPTO satellite to be successful. Our leading universities will produce the intellectual property attorneys, scientists and engineers that will be needed to fill the USPTO positions. With 40 federal laboratories and three out of the ten NASA centers - more than any other state – California provides additional opportunities for employment and technological advancement.

Maintaining the competitive edge of the United States will require an intense commitment to preserving and enhancing a positive business climate in the evolving global economy. As a commerce center and gateway to the growing Asian economies, locating a satellite office of the USPTO in California is a natural expansion and would underscore the commitment of the United States to promote innovative solutions to economic problems.

Sincerely,



Kate Klimow  
Vice President of Government Affairs