



Kenneth M. Massaroni
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David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Department of Commerce
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Kappos,

Seagate Technology fully supports and urgently solicits the establishment of a satellite patent office in Silicon Valley.

It is difficult to overstate the substantial toll that being on the opposite coast and three time zones away from the United States Patent Office places upon our company, let alone the toll upon the much greater innovation engine that is Silicon Valley. Invention, the raw material of innovation, is by its very nature a challenge to comprehend, interpret, and understand. Having direct personal and timely access to the Patent Office's Examiner Core (and vice versa), and to the unsurpassed resources of the Patent Office, is a critical advantage that has unfortunately been denied to Silicon Valley throughout its history. A robust remedy is long overdue.

Valid patents are an essential cornerstone of our business. With a local Patent Office, we and others in this hugely important center of innovation would be able to assist Examiners far more effectively, by being available and able to interact directly and in person, leading to better examination, better quality patents, lower applicant costs, and shortened pendencies. This is particularly important where technology life-cycles are short, as they are here. The improved efficiencies would also reduce patent and trademark costs while improving productivity.

The net would be improved U.S. competitiveness world-wide.

In summary, Seagate Technology is an active stakeholder in the U.S. Patent System and vitally dependent upon the best possible patent application process. Excellent collaboration between Silicon Valley inventors and the USPTO is essential to achieving a top quality patent application process and thereby maximizing innovation. At a Seagate-specific level, having a regional office here, in Silicon Valley, would be a significant asset for our company as we innovate and deliver cutting-edge digital storage solutions to meet our customers' and our Nation's needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kenneth M. Massaroni", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth M. Massaroni
Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Chief Administrative Officer