

January 30, 2012

David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Under Secretary Kappos,

On behalf of TechAmerica, the U.S. technology industry's largest advocacy organization representing over 1,000 leading innovative companies, I am writing to express our support for a satellite patent office in Silicon Valley.

Establishing a regional office in Silicon Valley would facilitate reducing the number of pending patents in the system and enhance communication between the USPTO and the patent applicant community. The opportunity for more frequent meetings and simply being able to send the appropriate personnel to a meeting, people who may not otherwise travel, the application process will be smoother and hence faster. Given the short life cycles of products in the technology industry, often less than a year, the more quickly pending patents are processed the better that our nation can continue to compete in the innovation race.

In addition to reducing the time for approval, an office in Silicon Valley would help to improve patent quality. The increased ability of the right engineers to interface with PTO examiners will lead to those engineers developing close working relationships with patent examiners to ensure the approval of high quality patents.

We believe that collaboration between Silicon Valley inventors, one vital part of the innovation landscape in the U.S., and the USPTO is critical to refining the patent application process overall and maximizing innovation nationwide.

Sincerely,



Adam Rak