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From: Ray Strimaitis [e-mail address redacted]  
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 8:07 PM  
To: SatelliteOffices  
Subject: PTO Satellite Offices

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

The America Invents Act affords the United States Patent and Trademark Office the opportunity to establish satellite offices to further support and carry out its responsibilities. We write in response to your Request for Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program noticed in the Federal Register November 29, 2011, and more specifically, to strongly urge the USPTO to select a location in, or close proximity to, Silicon Valley as a site for a satellite office.

We understand the choice of location will be guided by a number of considerations, including:

- The need to better connect patent filers and innovators with the USPTO, decrease the number of patent applications awaiting examination, and improve the quality of patent examination. What better place than Silicon Valley? Most Americans associate Silicon Valley with innovation. Indeed, Silicon Valley and the surrounding area are home to many of the world's largest and most innovative companies. Global leaders in the Internet, software, semi-conductor, clean energy and biotech industries are headquartered or have a significant presence in the Bay Area. The entrepreneurial spirit of the simple startup continues to thrive and expanding patent portfolios are of critical importance to those startups. In addition to industry, the Bay Area is also home to world class universities such as Stanford, University of California at Berkeley and Santa Clara University. These institutions not only generate impressive patent filings – but also offer premier intellectual property programs at their respective law schools. In fact, the USPTO's own statistics indicate that this part of the country leads by a substantial margin all other major U.S. metropolitan areas in utility patents issued. See [http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/taf/cl\\_s\\_cbsa/all\\_cbsa\\_gd.htm](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/taf/cl_s_cbsa/all_cbsa_gd.htm)

From a Silicon Valley satellite office, the USPTO will be able to connect easily with this large local audience of patent applicants and owners. The local audience, in turn, has every incentive to reach out to the examiner corps, educate them about the relevant technology, and facilitate more efficient examination of patent applications and other related USPTO processes. Both groups benefit: examiners learn more about the relevant art and technology, resulting in a faster and more thorough examinations; patent applicants learn more about what examiners need, resulting in better, higher quality patent applications and better patent drafting. Both groups "win."

- Improve recruitment and enhance patent examiner retention. Again, what better place than Silicon Valley? The San Francisco Bay Area is an extremely desirable place to live, with beautiful weather and a wide array of entertainment, education, sports and other cultural resources. Three major airports and an impressive array of mass transit service the area. Even more important, the industries responsible for such impressive patent statistics also by necessity train, develop and generate an impressive pool of highly qualified patent practitioners/potential examiners. The leading universities in the area could provide examiners opportunities to continue to develop their skills in intellectual property. Recruiting talented examiners in Silicon Valley will be easy and rewarding.

For all these reasons, Silicon Valley seems to us to be an easy and obvious choice as the site of your next USPTO satellite office. We would welcome your presence here. If we can answer any questions or provide any further information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

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