

12-022492

MIKE THOMPSON

1ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
1040 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101  
NAPA, CA 94559  
(707) 226-9898

317 THIRD STREET, SUITE 1  
EUREKA, CA 95501  
(707) 269-9595

POST OFFICE BOX 2208  
FORT BRAGG, CA 95437  
(707) 962-0933

712 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101  
WOODLAND, CA 95695  
(530) 662-5272

CAPITOL OFFICE:  
231 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3311

WEB: <http://mikethompson.house.gov>

January 27, 2012

The Honorable John E. Bryson  
Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Bryson:

I strongly support the placement of a regional office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in Sacramento, California.

The Sacramento metropolitan area is an affordable and central location, home to the University of California, Davis with its research expertise and forward-looking Graduate School of Management; state government agencies; and a growing number of technology firms. With a newly expanded international airport, Sacramento is easily reached from our most innovative areas of the West Coast including, Silicon Valley, the San Francisco Bay Area, San Diego and Seattle.

Because Northern California is home to some of the most significant generators of intellectual property in the nation, I believe access to a USPTO office in Sacramento will allow patent and trademark seekers with cutting edge innovations to spur economic development in a region that is severely challenged with the loss of public sector jobs. A regional USPTO will generate valuable knowledge-based job opportunities, encourage creation of associated high-skilled jobs and help address the critical unemployment challenges that linger in the region despite the economic recovery underway elsewhere.

For these reasons I am pleased to support this effort and look forward to the benefits that such a regional office will bring to the USPTO, to innovators across the western United States, and to the Sacramento area.

Sincerely,

MIKE THOMPSON  
Member of Congress

U.S. EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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