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California State Senate

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LOIS WOLK
FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT



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LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

January 26, 2012

Director David Kappos
United States Patent & Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Under Secretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: PTO-C-2011-0066

Dear Director Kappos:

The California State Legislature is unified in our support for the establishment of a United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in California. On behalf of the members representing the Sacramento Region, I write to express our strong support for the location of the new USPTO satellite office to be located within the Sacramento Region.

The Sacramento Region produces the nation's top-ranked engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and lawyers from both our public and private universities including: UC Davis, CSU Sacramento, Pacific McGeorge School of Law, Los Rios Community College, Sierra Community College, Yuba Community College, National University, Drexel University, and University of Phoenix.

Both UC Davis School of Law and McGeorge School of Law are recognized nationally for their academic programs. UC Davis's Center for Science & Innovation Studies focuses its attention on the processes and practices of innovation and technology transfer, including patents. McGeorge's Capital Center for Public Law and Policy and its Institute for Administrative Justice are leaders in assessing administrative law programs and training hearing officers to preside over all manner of administrative hearings. Twenty-five to thirty students a year take Patent Law and Intellectual Property classes at each school.

UC Davis's College of Engineering is renown as one of the largest and most innovative engineering schools in California and is unique in that it established the state's first Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Center where the primary goal is to accelerate the development and commercialization of energy efficiency technologies. The center has provided an exceptionally productive forum among government, industry, education, and non-profit organizations.

El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties make up the Sacramento Region where the relationships among business, community, state and local government leaders are closely intertwined and productive, leveraging the support of organizations such as: Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization, Sacramento Area Regional Technology Alliance, Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of



Commerce, Northern California World Trade Center, Valley Vision, and the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency.

Despite the area's strong business influence, government assets, and higher educational opportunities, the Sacramento Region has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state (13%) and California has the nation's second highest unemployment rate (12.1%) in the nation. Compared to the proximate regions of the Bay Area and San Francisco's lower unemployment rates (7-8%), the Sacramento Region's economic forecast anticipates an increase in our unemployment rates of up to 13.3% through 2012. A new patent office would boost our economy, help support local businesses, and encourage new residents to enjoy our substantially low cost of living compared to the high-cost of living in the surrounding Bay Area.

Public transportation and the newly expanded Sacramento International Airports easily accommodate our workers' commute within the region, as well as to greater metropolitan areas throughout California and the Western United States. As the state Capitol of California, Sacramento has more government and federal facilities for a patent office to collaborate with than any other geographic region in the state.

We believe a regional patent office could leverage the extremely high level of patent activity generated on the West Coast, and in California in particular, and at the same time benefit from Sacramento's affordable cost of living, high quality of life, and stable work force. We urge your favorable consideration in granting the Sacramento Region a satellite patent office.

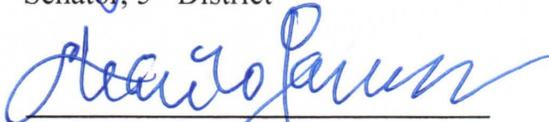
Sincerely,



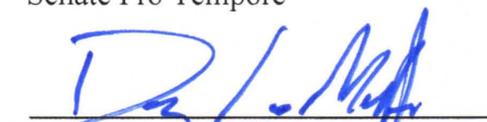
LOIS WOLK
Senator, 5th District



DARRELL STEINBERG
Senate Pro Tempore



MARIKO YAMADA
Assembly Member, 8th District



DOUG L. LA MALFA
Assembly Member, 4th District



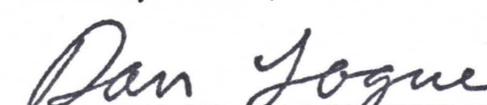
JIM W. NIELSEN
Assembly Member, 2nd District



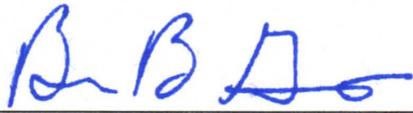
ALYSON L. HUBER
Assembly Member, 10th District



TED GAINES
Senator, 1st District



DAN LOGUE
Assembly Member, 3rd District



BETH GAINES
Assembly Member, 4th District



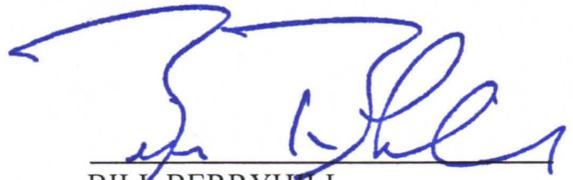
CATHLEEN GALGIANI
Assembly Member, 17th District



ANTHONY CANNELLA
Senator, 12th District

cc: Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization

LW:tda



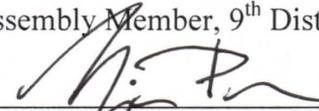
BILL BERRYHILL
Assembly Member, 26th District



TOM BERRYHILL
Senator, 14th District



ROGER DICKINSON
Assembly Member, 9th District



DR. RICHARD PAN
Assembly Member, 5th District