

January 20, 2012

Via E-mail

satelliteoffices@uspto.gov

David J. Kappos
Director
United States Patent and 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:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Holland and Hart, LLP in support of the selection of Denver, Colorado, as the next satellite office for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”). Holland and Hart has over 400 attorneys in fifteen offices spanning eight states with one of the largest full-service intellectual property practices in the Mountain West. Recently, Holland and Hart was listed among the top 20 law firms in the nation based on number of first-tier metropolitan rankings by U.S. News & World Report. In addition, Holland and Hart was given a national first-tier ranking in five areas including Technology Law.

As one of the pre-eminent Technology Law firms in the country, we serve many clients in high-technology fields such as communications, energy and electricity, bioscience, software, clean technology, and healthcare, to name a few. For these clients, intellectual property protections are a cornerstone of their business and an efficient and accessible patent system is critical to their success both domestically and internationally.

While we serve a nationwide client base, we believe Denver offers a unique combination of qualities that make it highly attractive to innovative industries. Specifically, the combination of a central location in the Mountain West, modern transportation infrastructure, reasonable cost of living, cultural richness, accessibility of outdoor activities, and presence of world-renown academic and scientific institutions draws top engineering, scientific, business, and legal talent. The ability to hire and retain critical technical staff has attracted many technology-focused companies to the Denver area.

As a result, the region has built a vibrant IP community committed to fostering innovation through outreach, educational programs, and programs directed to potential entrepreneurs. For example, the Silicon Flatirons Center at the University of Colorado provides a forum for technology policy outreach and fosters entrepreneurship in the Colorado technology community.

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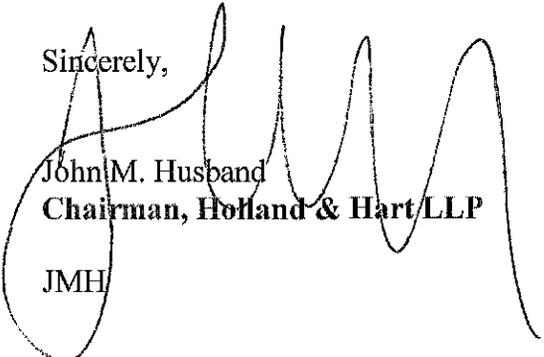
Several other nationally recognized entrepreneurship initiatives also have a presence in Colorado including Techstars and the Cleantech Open, to name a few. Additionally, technology transfer through the four major research universities located near Denver and national laboratories including the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, National Center for Atmospheric Research, and National Institute of Standards and Technology makes Colorado a breeding ground of innovative industries.

For these same reasons, Denver would be an ideal USPTO satellite office location. Specifically, the quality of life and reasonable cost of living that the Denver area offers would help the USPTO to recruit and retain patent examiners, reducing pendency and improving the quality of examination for patents. Further, the USPTO satellite office in Denver would immediately become part of the culture of entrepreneurship and innovation already well established in the Denver area.

A USPTO satellite office in Denver would provide an invaluable resource for our clients in technology industries. Because of its location, a Denver satellite office would provide convenient access for our clients located throughout the West. In many instances, our attorneys and their clients located throughout the West already choose Denver as a convenient meeting location. With short flight times to many cities, our attorneys and their clients throughout a large region of the country would have the ability to travel to Denver to meet with patent examiners and return in a single day, encouraging interaction between innovators and the USPTO.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments in support of Denver as one of the satellite offices for the USPTO. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information or further questions that you may have related to selection of USPTO satellite offices.

Sincerely,



John M. Husband
Chairman, Holland & Hart LLP

JMH