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To whom it may concern,

The Denver metropolitan area is among the better places in the country to place a satellite patent office. First, the area has a very large number of underemployed technical educated people. This is because people who move here tend not to move away even when their good technical job is lost. You can verify this by looking at housing prices. Second, it is relatively easy to fly in and fly out. Third, housing costs are not high and there is a great amount of room for expansion to the east, north and south.

I have been prosecuting patents since 1987 and have worked in Denver since 2000, so I can speak with some experience in saying that you should be able to hire a few hundred highly qualified patent examiners directly and immediately from the local population. There are in addition, quite a few retired aerospace engineers and Air Force officers that may want to consider a second career as examiners.

All that said, it seems that there is no reason to establish satellite patent offices if you continue with examiners working from home. This system would be much easier to administer if examiners were asked to either show up at work or to move to a satellite office, but there is plenty of room in Virginia and Maryland for all of the needed examiners to work from home. I have seen a reduction in quality and consistency in examiner work product since the various work from home programs began, but this process of satellite offices once begun will not be easy to stop.

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