

January 12, 2012

Director David Kappos
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Kappos:

Sierra Nevada Space Systems would like to submit this letter supporting the candidacy of the Denver Metropolitan Area as a location for a potential regional office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. We believe that the broad concept being pursued of establishing regional centers is highly desirable and very beneficial to the United States and to technology development efforts.

Sierra Nevada has over 1,000 technical and research employees and is very engaged in the development of intellectual property in the aerospace, space and information technology sectors. Sierra Nevada Space Systems decided to move our headquarters to Colorado for a number of different reasons, many of which we believe would provide similar benefits to the USPTO.

With a substantial operation in Colorado as well as throughout the United States we can clearly see the cost, efficiency and collaboration benefits of bringing this satellite office to an area that is and will be a substantial producer of future patents. Colorado has much to offer in terms of streamlining the patent process. It has amongst the largest aerospace, biotech and clean energy economies in the country, all of which are producing a significant number of patents. In addition, as the center of business and technology in the Rocky Mountain region it has a growing and highly active base of patent development. Having a regional office in Denver will enable faster and more efficient patent processing for a substantial number of future applicants.

Many Colorado cities have been recognized for their livability, in fact, Louisville, CO, our headquarters, was voted by Money Magazine as the number one city in America to live in 2011. The reasonable cost of living in Colorado not only makes it easy to recruit but also to retain a qualified workforce. The Denver area has a substantial and growing technical labor force, provides a wonderful quality of life, and as a major transportation hub offers 14 different airlines providing daily non-stop flights to over 160 cities from Denver International Airport, including dozens a day to Washington, DC. A successful public-private entrepreneurship corridor surrounding Denver allows for easy access to Colorado's large number of technology workers and would provide an excellent pool of long term patent examiners. All of these elements will combine to provide a unique long term environment for the USPTO.

A United States Patent and Trademark Satellite Office in Colorado would be beneficial to all those who are trying to, and will try to obtain a patent for years to come. USPTO Satellite Office has the potential to act as a magnet, attracting innovation as well as the potential of bringing new companies to Colorado spurred by their desire to operate in proximity to the Patent office. This will create jobs and continue to build Colorado's technology workforce.

I would be happy to speak with or meet with the selection committee as appropriate. Thank you for providing us this opportunity to submit our voice.

Sincerely,



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