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January 20, 2012

Mr. David Kappos  
Undersecretary of Commerce  
Director, United States Patent  
and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

**USPTO Satellite Offices for the  
Nationwide Workforce Program**

Dear Director Kappos:

I am writing in response to the November 29, 2011 Federal Register request for comments. Locating the next satellite office of the USPTO in the Denver metropolitan area would prove to be the outstanding choice, for many reasons. This is a city where both business prosperity and personal quality of employee life abounds.

With fourteen federally funded and managed laboratories including NREL, and the highest number of per capita federal employees outside of the beltway, government workers are welcome and respected in Colorado. Denver International Airport is consistently ranked among the best, and the location mid-continent would minimize time and cost of travel to a new USPTO satellite office in Denver.

Long time Colorado corporate patent owners such as Johns Manville and Lockheed Martin Aerospace are joined by numerous early and mid-stage high growth companies for whom access to and knowledge of the intellectual property expertise of the USPTO is vital. USPTO Examiners could expect a warm reception from companies and government. The University of Denver and University of Colorado Schools of Law would likely become a focal point for Patent and Trademark Legal Education. Recruitment and retention of USPTO employees would be supported by the ability to establish their family life, an increasingly important factor for a young and educated workforce.

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Higher education resources are growing in national recognition. The University of Colorado is becoming a major national research institution and gaining in stature. The CU Colleges of Science and Engineering have invested, for example, in the fabulous Caruthers Biochemistry and Biological Engineering facility opening this year. Notably, corporate support for the facility included 3.5 million dollars last year donated by ConocoPhillips. The USPTO may look to the decision process of ConocoPhillips when in 2005 the Houston based global company purchased 430 acres between Boulder and Denver to eventually relocate several thousand technical and research professionals to Colorado. Employee satisfaction, talent recruitment and retention were stated to be a decisive factor in that decision. With the importance of relocating the technical facility for America's third largest integrated energy company, many of the same important criteria were evaluated.

Colorado School of Mines, the renowned engineering and science institution which dates back to Colorado statehood, is legendary in mining and petroleum technologies. CSM is located just of few miles from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, situated against the Rocky Mountain foothills just ten minutes from Denver.

The more than three hundred days of bright annual sunshine was a reason the Solar Energy Research Institute (now part of NREL) decided to locate in Denver during the Carter Administration. That sunshine and the Rocky Mountain blue skies have attracted a vital and intelligent workplace for decades, particularly young technology workers. What has allowed them to stay in the Denver area, as opposed to many coastal cities for instance, is the reasonable cost of living, relatively mild four seasons and overall quality of life.

All of the above factors are crucial to the USPTO's success in achieving the goals of the America Invents Act, and would be delivered with a satellite office in Denver.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Touslee  
Associate General Counsel  
Intellectual Property