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January 30, 2012

The Honorable David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
US Department of Commerce
Madison Buildings (East & West)
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Re: Response to Request for Comments: Nationwide Workforce Program
Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0066**

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

I write to express The Hartford Financial Service Company's support for the State of Connecticut's proposal to host a satellite office of the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

Connecticut has a proud history of innovation and patent activity that continues to this day. Insurance and financial services patents, many of which originate in Connecticut, are becoming increasingly important in the industry. Connecticut's economy is diverse and includes not just a mature insurance and financial services sector, but also a robust and entrepreneurial cluster of software and information technology companies, biopharmaceutical labs, medical device makers, aerospace and advanced manufacturers.

Our colleges and universities are world class, which are responsible for cutting-edge research and development and are an engine of entrepreneurial activity in the state. Twenty four of our colleges, universities, and research institutions offer engineering degrees. Among states, Connecticut ranks third in the percent of our population with advanced degrees, according to the US Census Bureau. Overall, Connecticut has one of the highest rates of educational attainment in the US.

The Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Law Clinic at the University of Connecticut's School of Law in Hartford, CT provides counseling to Connecticut's innovators on an extensive range of intellectual property (patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret) and related business law issues. In July of 2008,

the Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Law Clinic was honored as one of six law school clinics in the nation selected by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to participate in a two-year pilot program under which law students are granted limited recognition to practice law (while under attorney supervision) before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. This program was extended for an additional year (2010-2011). The local patent bar and University resources would enable an excellent partnership to allow the Patent Examiners greater real world education to continue to improve the quality of the patent applications under review.

A Hartford location would be an excellent way to meet the interests of the USPTO and the region's inventors and entrepreneurs, and so we commend the proposal by Connecticut to host such an office and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Cunningham", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Cunningham
VP, Assistant General Counsel &
Director of Intellectual Property Law