



January 26, 2012

The Honorable David Kappos  
Under Secretary for Intellectual Property  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

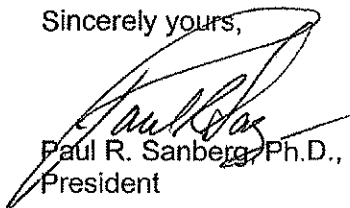
On behalf of the National Academy of Inventors, this letter is sent in support of the Tampa Bay region as a location for a USPTO satellite office. We believe that the Tampa Bay region, with the University of South Florida at its center for technology and innovation, would provide an ideal setting for the USPTO's national and regional workforce.

Founded at the University of South Florida in 2010, the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) is a rapidly growing, 501c3 organization comprised of U.S. and international universities and non-profit research institutes. It was created to recognize and encourage inventors with a patent issued from the USPTO, enhance the visibility of academic technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property, educate and mentor innovative students, and translate the inventions of its members to benefit society.

We believe that, in addition to the culture of innovation to which the NAI contributes in the Tampa Bay region, the NAI's ability to connect the USPTO with academic inventors at universities and non-profit research institutions throughout the nation would greatly benefit the USPTO and enhance the selection of the Tampa Bay region for a satellite office.

We believe that the Tampa Bay region would be a positive choice, not only for the USPTO, but also for the region as a whole. We fully endorse the pursuit of this honor. The opportunities which will result will positively impact the USPTO and its workforce, the local communities and the economic development efforts in our area, positively influencing the rising tide of improved economic health in the region.

Sincerely yours,



Paul R. Sanberg, Ph.D., D.Sc.  
President