

From: Lisa Bloomquist [e-mail address redacted]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:48 PM
To: Khan, Azam; SatelliteOffices
Cc: [e-mail address redacted]
Subject: Boise Metro for USPTO Office

Mr. Khan,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a regional proposal for the Boise Metro as a location for one of your Patent and Trademark Satellite Locations.

Attached you will find a proposal letter highlighting many of the reasons Boise would be a perfect fit for a satellite location. You will also find a number of support letters attached from key leaders in our community:

- **State of Idaho:** C.L. "Butch" Otter (Governor of Idaho)
- **Idaho Congressional Delegation:** Mike Crapo (United States Senator), Jim Risch (United States Senator), Mike Simpson (Member of Congress), Raul Labrador (Member of Congress)
- **Idaho Department of Commerce:** Jeffery Sayer (Director, Department of Commerce)
- **City of Boise:** David Bieter (Mayor of Boise)
- **Micron Technology Inc:** Roderic Lewis (Vice President of Legal Affairs)
- **Boise State University (BSU):** Dr. Robert W. Kustra (President of BSU)
- **University of Idaho:** Annemarie Bridy, J.D., Ph.D. (Professor in the College of Law)
- **Idaho State University:** Bessie Katsilometes, Ph.D. (Dean, Academic Programs)
- **Risch Pisca PLLC (Law and Policy):** Jeremy Pisca (Attorney at Law)
- **Boise Valley Economic Partnership:** Clark Krause (Executive Director)

As the regional economic development organization, we work closely with the State of Idaho and the cities in the Boise Metro Region. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you, or provide additional information. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you.

Lisa Bloomquist
Marketing Specialist
[phone redacted]

Boise Valley Economic Partnership
250 S 5th Street Ste 300
Boise, ID 83702
www.bvep.org

January 26, 2012

Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Office of Under Secretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22314-1450

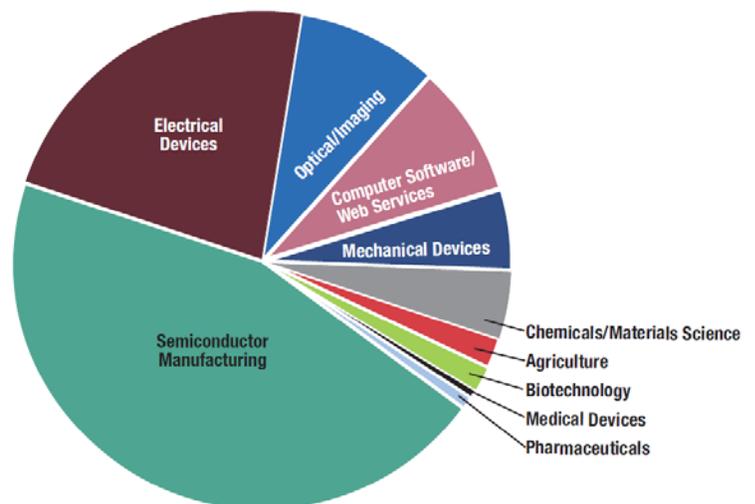
RE: Boise Metro Region for U.S. Patent and Trademark Satellite Office

Dear Mr. Khan:

We recently learned that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is looking to open a new satellite location, and we are confident that the Boise Metro Region is the perfect fit. Consistently ranked by The Wall Street Journal, Kiplinger's, Forbes and others as one of the top 10 locations for business and family in the U.S., the Boise Valley is the ideal setting for companies in search of an affordable, pro-business environment and a superior quality of life for employees.

Idaho has consistently been ranked as **number one for patents issued per capita** in the nation. In the Boise Valley alone, there are *sixty-one patent attorneys* and a large group of engineers due to the corporate presence of Micron Technology and Hewlett Packard in semiconductor manufacturing and electrical devices. These companies generate a large portion of Idaho's patents and have created an entrepreneurial heritage for the Valley. Idaho continues to enhance economic diversity by working with the Idaho National Laboratory and other education based institutions to enhance research output. The Boise Metro region is focused on making innovation, technology and technology transfer a vital part of the community. This is part of the reason that Boise has had a strong heritage of corporate headquarters growing out of the region including Micron Technology, the J.R. Simplot Company, OreIda, Morrison Knudsen (URS), Boise Cascade, Hewlett Packard, the Albertsons Corporation and many others.

2010 Idaho Patents by Category



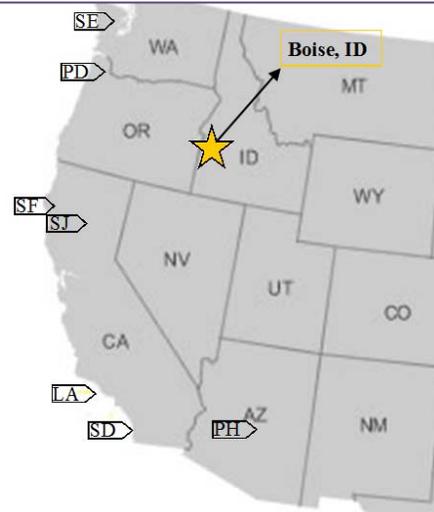
Patents Generated in Boise MSA

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
1,509	1,229	1,063	837	948	5,586

8 of the top 20 patent producing cities are on the west coast

Boise, Idaho is in the **top 20 patent producing cities** with **close proximity to 7 other cities** in the top 20.

Accessible Transportation: Strategically located in southwestern Idaho, the Boise Valley is an ideal location for easy *non-stop access* to all major cities on the west coast. The Boise Airport serves more than 3 million people a year and is less than five miles from downtown Boise. With 8 major airlines, there are non-stop flights to Chicago, Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Oakland (CA), Phoenix, Portland, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, San Jose, Seattle and Spokane.



The *average commute time within the Boise Valley is only 18 minutes*. There is a strong interstate system that makes traveling to the Boise downtown quick and easy. ValleyRide provides public bus transportation throughout the Boise Valley.

Boise City - Nampa MSA Federal Employment by Agency, preliminary Q3 2011

Agency	Employment Range
SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM	1-5
US DEPT OF ENERGY	1-5
NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINIST	1-5
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	1-5
DEPT OF HOUSING & URBAN D	5-9
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	5-9
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	5-9
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATIO	10-20
US DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVCS	10-20
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	20-49
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR	20-49
US POSTAL SERVICE	20-49
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	50-99
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION	50-99
U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION	50-99
HOMELAND SECURITY	50-99
ADMIN OFFICE OF THE US COURTS	50-99
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	100-249
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	100-249
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	100-249
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE	500-999
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	500-999
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	500-999
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION	1000-1500
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	1000-1500

Source: Quarterly Census of Employed Workers, 2011

Growing Population: There is no better indication of quality of place for business and living than in-migration. The national census bureau has ranked Idaho as one of the top five fastest growing states in the nation. Even during the economic downturn, Idaho's population continued to grow. The total population within a 45-minute draw area is 632,000 people, which is a 32 percent growth since 2000. The median age for workers in the Boise Metro is 34.1 where the national average is 37.2.

Strong Base for Federal Employees: As the capital city of the state, along with a strong air force presence in the Boise Valley, there are a number of federal employees already in the state of Idaho. The Mountain Home Air Force Base has 4,084 active duty military with 5,321 active duty dependents living in the area with an additional 7,480 retired military personnel in the county of the base alone. There are also an additional 1,340 full time military personnel located just outside of Boise (Gowen Field).

Low Costs for Business and Living: The overall cost of doing business is nearly a third lower than California and Washington. According to the ACCRA Cost of Living Index for 2011, the Boise MSA ranked at 96.1% of the national average for cost of living and at 83.4% of the national average for cost in housing. The average cost of a home is approximately \$155,000 in Ada County and \$79,000 in Canyon County (compared to a national average of \$226,000). Boise would be a low-cost solution for USPTO employees with easy access to serve the high-cost market place of other major cities on the west coast.

Trained and Productive Workforce: The available workforce within a 45-minute draw area is 330,000 people; over one third (37%) of the working population in the city of Boise are degreed workers where the national average is 27.9% according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In engineering related fields, there were over 8,000 jobs in the Boise Metro in 2011, which represented a 2.9% growth for this industry (compared to the national average of 1.9%). 2,323 of these jobs were in semiconductor and related device manufacturing, and another 1,000 were in computer storage device manufacturing. This field has been strong in the Boise Metro, with lower operating costs than other cities in the West. The engineering median wage in 2011 for the Boise Metro was \$34.55/hr compared to the national of \$37.90/hr.

Below is a snapshot of potential employees who are looking for employment in engineering based fields. The numbers below only represents individuals registered with the Idaho Department of Labor's job search program; there would be a larger pool of available workforce outside of the list below.

Available Work Force		Boise City-Nampa MSA				National
Occupation Code	Occupation Title	Available Workforce*	2011 Jobs	Entry Wage ¹	Median Hourly Wage ¹	Median Hourly Wage ³
11-9041	Engineering managers	34	510	\$33.09	\$51.92	\$57.34
15-1021	Computer programmers	194	1,026	\$17.69	\$28.00	\$34.32
15-1032	Computer software engineers, systems software	72	1,007	\$27.39	\$36.55	\$45.28
17-2061	Computer hardware engineers	57	562	\$32.47	\$44.55	\$47.50
17-2071	Electrical engineers	61	1,304	\$31.69	\$41.92	\$40.65
17-2072	Electronics engineers, except computer	73	160	\$24.80	\$36.58	\$43.35
17-3023	Electrical and electronic engineering technicians	245	839	\$17.29	\$24.35	\$26.94
Total		736	5,408			
* This number includes employed job seekers registered through IdahoWorks, The Idaho Department of Labor's job search engine (in the past 90 days) as well as individuals claiming Unemployment Insurance in Oct-Dec 2011.						
¹ Boise City-Nampa MSA, Occupational Employment & Wage Survey, 2011, Idaho Dept. of Labor						
² Idaho, Occupational Employment & Wage Survey, 2011, Idaho Dept. of Labor						
³ National, Occupational Employment & Wage Survey, May 2010, Bureau of Labor Statistics						

Looking at legal services, there were 2,218 employed in the Boise Metro in 2011 (including lawyers, legal assistants, judges, and law clerks) with a Median wage of \$31.29/hr compared to the national average of \$38.16/hr. With Concordia Law University opening in the Fall of 2012 in Boise, the trained legal workforce will continue to expand.

Education: The Boise Valley offers families an excellent K-12 school system and many post-secondary educational opportunities. The Boise Valley is home to the fastest growing community college in the country, *College of Western Idaho*, with enrollment numbers currently of 8,500 students after opening their doors in January of 2009. This college has a strong reputation and a 90.6% placement out of their programs, as they work directly with companies for specialized training programs and placement needs.

Boise State University (BSU), located in downtown Boise, serves over 20,000 students with strong programs in engineering, business, nursing and technology. The University added a new doctoral program in materials science and engineering this year and has a total of six doctoral programs offered. *Concordia Law University* is set to open their doors to a downtown Boise location in the fall of 2012. The *University of Idaho* also has a strong law school in Northern Idaho. *Idaho National Labs* has innovative research and works closely with many of the companies in the Boise Valley.

High Quality of Place: Outside Magazine ranked Boise as the "*Best Town in America*". World-class outdoor recreation is within minutes of the Boise Valley including skiing (a local ski resort is twenty minutes from Boise), hiking, cycling, fishing, rock climbing, rafting and more. A full complement of cultural amenities including the nationally recognized Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Trey McIntyre Project, Boise Philharmonic, Opera Idaho and much more.

Climate: The Boise Valley is known for its beautiful four seasons with minimal risk for natural disasters. The airport operates without closures and businesses as well as roads are rarely closed in the winter due to snowfall. At 2,730 feet elevation (a high-desert region), Boise has 234 annual days of sunshine with an average high temperature 90.2 F (July), and an average low temperature of 21.6 F (Jan). Boise constantly is ranked as one of the safest metros as far as natural disasters are concerned.

National Rankings

- "Best Town in America" (Outside magazine, August 2010)

Boise, to put it mildly, has been on a roll. Government, education, and health care remain core industries, but dozens of high-tech startups have moved to town, joining behemoths like Hewlett-Packard and Micron Technology. And while its population has more than doubled in the past 30 years and jaded locals bemoan the sprawl, Boise has managed its growth impressively well: The city is home to nearly 2,000 acres of parks and a 25-mile greenbelt... the older neighborhoods have that Boulder vibe—cruiser bikes, farmers' markets, and prayer flags—only with reasonably priced homes. (Outside Magazine)

- Boise is #8 "Best Places to Live in the US" (Wall Street Journal's Market Watch, Aug 2011)
- Boise is #5 "**Best Performing Medium Metro, Summer 2011**" (Headlight-LLC, Oct 2011)
- Boise is among the 25 "Best Places for Business and Careers" (Forbes, April 2010)
- #9 Healthiest State (America's Health Ranking.org, November 2010)
- #5 Lowest Crime Rate in the Country (CQ Press, 2010)
- #7 Long-Term Job Growth Rate (U.S. Chamber of Commerce, June 2011)
- #9 Top Entrepreneurship & Innovation (U.S. Chamber of Commerce, June 2011)

Diversity: To those outside of the Boise Valley, diversity may not be the first thing that comes to mind when describing the area. But, more than 90 different languages are spoken in the Boise School District. The Boise Valley is home to one of the oldest synagogues in the western United States. Over 800 new citizens are welcomed to the Boise Valley each year from over 20 foreign countries who are seeking refuge from the circumstances in their homeland. Idaho is home to the second largest Basque population in North America. More than two dozen language courses are available through local universities and community education programs. Annual diversity events and resources include the Soul Food Extravaganza, PRIDE activities, Hispanic Cultural Center and the Black History Museum.

Innovation, a stable and qualified workforce, low costs of doing business, and an un-paralleled quality of place are part of the Boise Valley's heritage. We have outlined some of the major reasons that Boise would be an excellent home for the USPTO, and would welcome the opportunity to help coordinate a site selection trip of the Boise Metro region. The Boise Valley Economic Partnership stands ready to assist and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Clark Krause
Executive Director
Boise Valley Economic Partnership
(208) 863-9675
Ckrause@bvpep.org

Letters of Support

for a (USPTO) Satellite Office in

Boise, ID



Enclosed Letters of Support From:

- **State of Idaho:** C.L. “Butch” Otter (Governor of Idaho)
- **Idaho Congressional Delegation:** Mike Crapo (United States Senator), Jim Risch (United States Senator), Mike Simpson (Member of Congress), Raul Labrador (Member of Congress)
- **Idaho Department of Commerce:** Jeffery Sayer (Director, Department of Commerce)
- **City of Boise:** David Bieter (Mayor of Boise)
- **Micron Technology Inc:** Roderic Lewis (Vice President of Legal Affairs)
- **Boise State University (BSU):** Dr. Robert W. Kustra (President of BSU)
- **University of Idaho:** Annemarie Bridy, J.D., Ph.D. (Professor in the College of Law)
- **Idaho State University:** Bessie Katsilometes, Ph.D. (Dean, Academic Programs)
- **Risch Pisca PLLC (Law and Policy):** Jeremy Pisca (Attorney at Law)
- **Boise Valley Economic Partnership:** Clark Krause (Executive Director)



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

January 26, 2012

Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Office of Under Secretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22314-1450

Dear Mr. Khan,

It is with great enthusiasm that I embrace the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office plan to open satellite offices in geographically diverse areas of the county to support the tremendous innovation that takes place throughout our great nation. In selecting a site for a satellite office, I am confident that Idaho is the perfect fit for an America Invents location.

Innovation is second nature to Idaho citizens. Our state consistently ranks at the top in patents issued per 1,000 workers with an extremely high patent ratio more than 3.5 times the national average. Without a doubt, our tremendous workforce will meet and exceed your expectations and provide the high level of superior service that is expected by your clients. A low crime rate, short commutes and easy access to vacation-worthy outdoor activities create an enviable quality of life.

Idaho's strategic location in the western United States makes it an excellent hub location to maximize service to clients in surrounding regional states. When you couple strategic location with the second-lowest business costs in the West, selecting Idaho is a sound business decision.

I have spent decades promoting Idaho's goods, services and people around the world. As Governor, I am personally committed to making Idaho the best place in America to successfully innovate, start or expand a business, or grow an idea. I pledge my support and the support of all of our State agencies who will work beside you in this exciting endeavor. Please consider us as an extension of your staff.

I encourage your positive consideration of Idaho and look forward to working with you, now and long into the future.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C.L. Butch Otter".

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

Mike Crapo
United States Senator
239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Jim Risch
United States Senator
483 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress
2312 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Raul Labrador
Member of Congress
1523 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 30, 2012

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

Dear Director Kappos:

We are writing today to offer our strong support to the State of Idaho's application for the establishment of a United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) satellite office in Boise, Idaho.

As you may know, the State of Idaho is fortunate to host a robust technology sector with a strong interest in the location of satellite USPTO offices. Idaho is home to a wealth of successful companies including Micron Technology, Hewlett Packard, Simplot Company and many other smaller but highly successful technology companies.

In addition, Idaho is home to three major universities with a strong emphasis on engineering and technology, the University of Idaho, Boise State University, and Idaho State University. Idahoans are very proud of these three institutions and the successes of their faculty and students in endeavors requiring the utilization of the USPTO.

Idaho is also home to the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), a world-class Department of Energy-owned research and engineering laboratory. INL's yearly business volume recently surpassed \$1 billion and I am proud to report that INL is a strong partner with Idaho's three major universities. The efforts of INL's researchers, and their collaborations with the state's universities, have resulted in patents too numerous to outline in this short letter.

It is also important to note that Idaho leads the nation in patents per capita and has long been known as a Western state with a strong entrepreneurial spirit. Idaho is centrally located in the Intermountain West and is easily accessible to the major metropolitan centers of Portland, Seattle, Spokane, Salt Lake City, and Denver.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Boise is a great place to live and work, routinely ranking in the top cities in America in which to raise a family, recreate, and establish a business. We are confident that USPTO would be able to attract the best and brightest our nation has to offer to work in Boise and stay here for the duration of their careers.

Director Kappos
January 30, 2012
Page Two

We recognize the competition for the location of two additional USPTO satellite offices will be intense and that virtually every state in our nation will be working diligently to attract the attention of USPTO. Therefore, we urge you to pay special attention to the application the State of Idaho puts forward and encourage you to visit the City of Boise to see firsthand the tremendous opportunity that exists for USPTO in the Gem State.

Sincerely,



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Jim Risch
United States Senator



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



Raul Labrador
Member of Congress

January 26, 2012

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

Dear Director Kappos:

I am writing today to ask for your strong consideration of Idaho as an America Invents satellite office location. I applaud your efforts to provide expanded customer service opportunities for the researchers, entrepreneurs, and businesses that seek patents and trademarks, and encourage you to look to Idaho as an ideal location for a Western office to meet the needs of your constituents.

Idaho is unique among states as a result of our strong innovative culture that embraces the development and creativity of new ideas that propel our state and national economy forward. For over a decade, Idaho has ranked among the top states in patents issued per capita, and we are home to a number of large and small companies that are leaders in the research and development community including Micron Technology, Hewlett-Packard, and the Idaho National Laboratory.

Many companies look to Idaho as a friendly, low-cost locale to do business and this is the case not only for the private sector, but also for a public sector agency that is looking to maximize efficiencies and lower the cost of doing business in light of funding challenges at the federal level. Idaho's educated labor force, affordable real estate, excellent service to major airline hubs, and quality of life are just a few in a series of compelling reasons why the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) should look to Boise, Idaho for your expansion.

You will undoubtedly have many options to consider in placing this satellite office, but I can assure you that should you select Idaho you will find a tremendous partner that will ensure the successful establishment of the office and promotion of the resources that the USPTO has to offer. We are supportive and committed to the work you do and look forward to an opportunity to work with you closely as plans move forward in the selection process.

Thank you in advance for your strong consideration of the Gem State and the City of Boise.

Sincerely,



Jeffery Sayer
Director



Office of the Mayor

David H. Bieter
Mayor

City Council

President
Maryanne Jordan

Council Pro Tem
David Eberle

Elaine Clegg
Lauren McLean
TJ Thomson
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January 30, 2012

Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Under Secretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Khan,

I write to you to express my support for locating an office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in Boise, Idaho. I believe it is the ideal spot for the USPTO to attract and retain a strong workforce, improve connections with the patent applicant community and reduce the workload and backlog of the agency.

As you may know, Boise is an epicenter of innovation and research activity in our country, enjoying one of the highest patents per capita rates in the nation. It is the home of major corporations, such as Micron Technology and Hewlett-Packard, as well as individual inventors and small businesses that are daily turning out the next class of technologies to improve lives around the world.

The City of Boise is home to major research universities including Boise State University and the University of Idaho, which pride themselves on the robust connections they maintain with industry to move the innovations in the classroom into the marketplace. Although Boise State University's College of Engineering is one of the youngest in the country, it has made remarkable progress in the amount of research it is conducting as well as the degree programs it offers. Having both universities in Boise has been a tremendous boon to our education and commercial communities with the breadth and depth of knowledge they contribute. While Boise State University students and faculty are performing cutting-edge research on environmental sensors that can be used in closed systems, such as airplanes, University of Idaho researchers are conducting leading research projects to improve our agricultural system. Both universities maintain a strong partnership with the Idaho National Laboratory, only 45 minutes by plane in Pocatello, Idaho.

With regards to patent examiner retention, I believe you could not find a better location. Boise offers big-city amenities and smaller-city ease. In recent decades, Boise has become an oasis for professionals who are looking for a home where they can enjoy all of the cultural and recreational opportunities they are used to, but want to get away from the hassle and spend more time with their families and friends. We are the home to outstanding cultural organizations and individuals such as Trey McIntyre Project, a world-class contemporary ballet company that was recently named as one the Department of State's cultural ambassadors, and Anthony Doerr, whose fiction has won several O. Henry prizes, three Ohionana book awards and the 2010 Story Prize, among many others. The City also offers 135 miles of hiking and biking trails, more than 100 parks and hundreds of acres of open space, and is only 30 minutes from a major ski area. In a single day you could take a mind-

refreshing hike up to Table Rock to take in the gorgeous landscape, have a conversation with a teacher-astronaut (Barbara Morgan, Educator in Residence at Boise State University) and enjoy a spectacular performance by the Boise Philharmonic. People may move to Boise for their employment, but they stay in Boise because of everything our City has to make their lives better.

With regard to helping to reduce the patent pendency rates, Idahoans also have a work ethic that cannot be paralleled. From its earliest beginnings, Idaho's citizens have demonstrated the determination and drive necessary to be successful. We have grown highly successful corporations from their small starts, such as Micron Technology, Boise Cascade and Albertsons. These companies thrived because of the hard work of the leadership and employees who understood that if they put in the effort, it would help not only their businesses but the entire community.

I appreciate your consideration of Boise, Idaho as a location for the USPTO. We look forward to welcoming you to your new home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Bieter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "B".

David H. Bieter
Mayor



January 26, 2012

Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Office of Under Secretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22314-1450

RE: Boise Metro Region for U.S. Patent and Trademark Satellite Office

Dear Mr. Khan:

In light of the search for a new U.S. Patent and Trademark satellite office, Micron Technology strongly supports the Boise region as the top choice.

Based in Boise, Micron Technology is a global company with over 24,000 team members worldwide. Innovation is an ongoing commitment for Micron, and we are currently completing an advanced R&D fabrication facility on our Boise campus. Year after year, Micron Technology consistently ranks in the top 20 of U.S. patent recipients, with a majority of the patents developed at our Boise campus.

Idaho has also seen strong patent numbers coming from the Idaho National Laboratory (Battelle) and Hewlett Packard with a focus on semiconductor manufacturing and electrical devices. In fact, I understand that the Boise metro region is among the top twenty cities in the country for the most patents generated, and Idaho produces more patents per capita than any other state.

Thank you for considering the Boise metro region. I would be happy to visit with you in person about the benefits of a PTO satellite office in Boise if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roderic W. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "L" at the end.

Roderic W. Lewis
Vice President of Legal Affairs
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Micron Technology, Incorporated



January 26, 2012

Mr. Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Office of Under Secretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22314-1450

RE: Boise Metro Region for U.S. Patent and Trademark Satellite Office

Dear Mr. Khan:

In light of the search for a new U.S. Patent and Trademark Satellite Office I strongly support the Boise Metro region as the top choice.

As an education partner to all sectors of Idaho's economy, I know that this area would be well suited for this office. The Boise Metro region is among the top twenty cities in the country for the entrepreneurial activity, business formation and the most patents generated. Idaho produces more patents per capita than any other state.

The Boise Metro region is a vibrant area and a highly desirable location to live and work. Boise State employs over 3,000 individuals. Most of the recently recruited faculty, scientists and researchers are attracted to Boise State for the opportunity to excel in the rapidly growing research enterprise. The mild climate, geography, sports and cultural attractions contribute to the appeal of the desirable quality of life available in the capital city of Boise Metro region.

Boise State University is a major contributor to the knowledge-economy in the Boise metro region. Over 70% of Boise State's alumni remain in the Boise Metro region and over 43,000 individuals who have received at least one degree from Boise State reside in Idaho. The educational opportunities at Boise State, combined with the business and economic diversity maintain a high-quality workforce in the area.

I hope you will consider the Boise Metro region for your new office, and Boise State University would look forward to working with you and welcoming you to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Kustra".

Robert W. Kustra
President

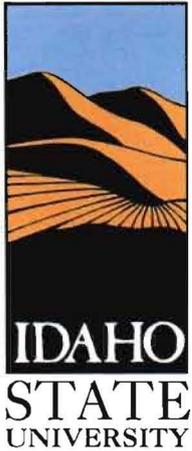
Boise State University, and Washington State University. These offices handle all patenting and patent licensing activity for their respective institutions.

In addition, over the last few years, several College of Law students have participated in the USPTO's unpaid summer Patent Experience Externship Program (PEEP). One of those students recently accepted a position as a full-time patent examiner in the electrical arts at the USPTO's headquarters in Virginia. University of Idaho College of Law graduates are both qualified and willing to fill positions as patent examiners and related positions with the USPTO that touch upon the PTO's core function as the gatekeeper to our nation's patent system. Our JD graduates could offer the PTO in Boise the combination of technical knowledge and legal expertise necessary to advance the PTO's goal of improving the overall quality of patent examination.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Annemarie Bridy

Annemarie Bridy, J.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor
University of Idaho College of Law
PO Box 442321
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January 30, 2012

Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, VA 22314-1450

RE: Boise Metro Region for U.S. Patent and Trademark Satellite Office

Dear Mr. Khan:

In light of the search for a new U.S. Patent and Trademark Satellite Office I strongly support the Boise region as the first choice for your consideration of new satellite offices. As a partner to innovation, education and advanced research in the state of Idaho, I know that this area would be well suited for this office. The Boise Metro region is among the top twenty cities in the country for the most patents generated, and Idaho produces more patents per capita than any other state. Idaho has seen strong patent numbers coming from the Idaho National Laboratory (Battelle), Hewlett Packard and Micron Technology with a focus on semiconductor manufacturing and electrical devices.

Idaho continues to enhance economic diversity by working with private and public institutions to enhance research development. There are also many organizations in the Boise Metro region focused on making innovation, technology and technology transfer a vital part of the community. Among them is THE CORE, of which Idaho State University (ISU) is the educational anchor, an Idaho coalition for innovation, promoting health, research, and technology initiatives in the region. THE CORE was formed as a business enterprise corridor or med-tech industry cluster, and works in concert with the Boise Valley Economic Partnership, the Idaho Technology Council, and Project 60, a comprehensive plan proposed by Governor Otter to grow Idaho's Gross Domestic Product. In his recent State of the State Address, the Governor unveiled a new initiative, the Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission (IGEM), to create knowledge-based opportunities in the economy, by increasing strategic areas of research and development through targeted partnerships among industry, higher education and government that leverage resources.

Working for ISU-Meridian Health Science Center, located in the Boise Valley, innovation and research is one of the key reasons so many companies and corporate headquarters have succeeded in the Metro Region. As you are well aware, Universities are at the heart of research and development and one of the principle incubators for new patents in this country. ISU is a Carnegie-classified Research University-High institution, recognized in the top 5% of the nation's 4,663 universities and colleges ranked by the Foundation, with only 98 higher education entities in this prestigious group, and another 108 universities in the Research University-Very High uppermost category.

I hope you will consider our region for your new office(s), and we would look forward to working with you and welcoming you to our community.

Sincerely,

Bessie Katsilometes, Ph.D.
Dean, Academic Programs
ISU-Meridian Health Science Center

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January 30, 2012

Sent via email to satelliteoffices@uspto.gov

Azam Khan, Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Re: Consideration of the Boise, Idaho for a new satellite USPTO

Dear Mr. Khan:

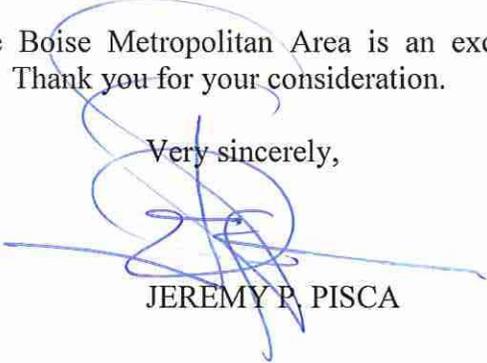
I am pleased to hear that the Boise area is being considered as a potential location for a satellite office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Idaho was recently ranked the fourth fastest growing state, due largely in part to the expansion of the Boise area. The area's continued growth and focus on technological advancement makes it an excellent place for incoming businesses and organizations.

The greater Boise area has recently been ranked 19th among U.S. cities in the number of granted patents, with 5,586 patents from 2006-2010. This is noteworthy, as Boise and the surrounding area are much smaller in size and population than other high ranked cities. This is due, in part, to an increasingly innovative and educated population and labor force. Boise State University's undergraduate engineering program ranked as the 15th best public institution in the United States. This program helps provide a knowledgeable and eager workforce.

The City of Boise is not only situated in a beautiful part of our state, but it is also in an extremely convenient geographical location. Our area's central location in the northwest and our airport allows for easy access to the surrounding states and major cities throughout the United States. For this reason, and many others, the Boise area has become an epicenter of business, industry and activity in the northwest.

I believe that the Boise Metropolitan Area is an excellent candidate for the expansion of the USPTO. Thank you for your consideration.

Very sincerely,



JEREMY P. PISCA

January 26, 2012

Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Office of Under Secretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22314-1450

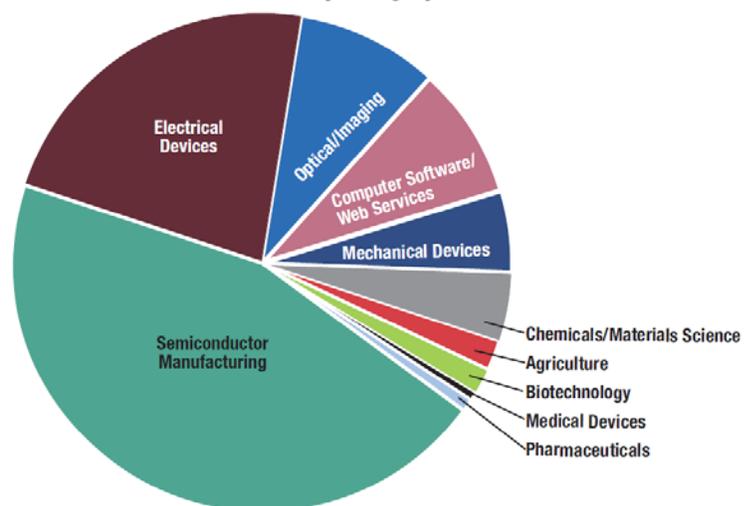
RE: Boise Metro Region for U.S. Patent and Trademark Satellite Office

Dear Mr. Khan:

We recently learned that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is looking to open a new satellite location, and we are confident that the Boise Metro Region is the perfect fit. Consistently ranked by The Wall Street Journal, Kiplinger's, Forbes and others as one of the top 10 locations for business and family in the U.S., the Boise Valley is the ideal setting for companies in search of an affordable, pro-business environment and a superior quality of life for employees.

Idaho has consistently been ranked as **number one for patents issued per capita** in the nation. In the Boise Valley alone, there are *sixty-one patent attorneys* and a large group of engineers due to the corporate presence of Micron Technology and Hewlett Packard in semiconductor manufacturing and electrical devices. These companies generate a large portion of Idaho's patents and have created an entrepreneurial heritage for the Valley. Idaho continues to enhance economic diversity by working with the Idaho National Laboratory and other education based institutions to enhance research output. The Boise Metro region is focused on making innovation, technology and technology transfer a vital part of the community. This is part of the reason that Boise has had a strong heritage of corporate headquarters growing out of the region including Micron Technology, the J.R. Simplot Company, OreIda, Morrison Knudsen (URS), Boise Cascade, Hewlett Packard, the Albertsons Corporation and many others.

2010 Idaho Patents by Category



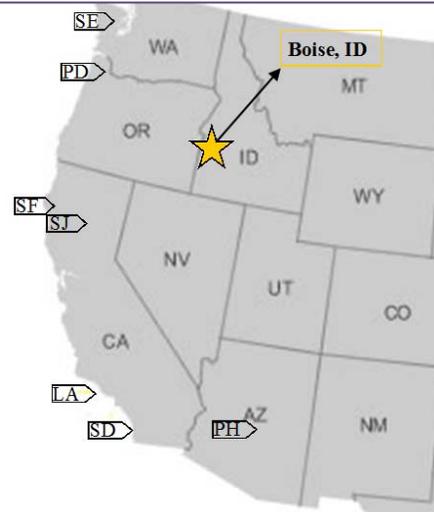
Patents Generated in Boise MSA

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
1,509	1,229	1,063	837	948	5,586

8 of the top 20 patent producing cities are on the west coast

Boise, Idaho is in the **top 20 patent producing cities** with **close proximity to 7 other cities** in the top 20.

Accessible Transportation: Strategically located in southwestern Idaho, the Boise Valley is an ideal location for easy *non-stop access* to all major cities on the west coast. The Boise Airport serves more than 3 million people a year and is less than five miles from downtown Boise. With 8 major airlines, there are non-stop flights to Chicago, Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Oakland (CA), Phoenix, Portland, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, San Jose, Seattle and Spokane.



The *average commute time within the Boise Valley is only 18 minutes*. There is a strong interstate system that makes traveling to the Boise downtown quick and easy. ValleyRide provides public bus transportation throughout the Boise Valley.

Boise City - Nampa MSA Federal Employment by Agency, preliminary Q3 2011

Agency	Employment Range
SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM	1-5
US DEPT OF ENERGY	1-5
NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINIST	1-5
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	1-5
DEPT OF HOUSING & URBAN D	5-9
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	5-9
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	5-9
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATIO	10-20
US DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVCS	10-20
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	20-49
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR	20-49
US POSTAL SERVICE	20-49
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	50-99
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION	50-99
U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION	50-99
HOMELAND SECURITY	50-99
ADMIN OFFICE OF THE US COURTS	50-99
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	100-249
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	100-249
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	100-249
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE	500-999
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	500-999
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	500-999
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION	1000-1500
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	1000-1500

Source: Quarterly Census of Employed Workers, 2011

Growing Population: There is no better indication of quality of place for business and living than in-migration. The national census bureau has ranked Idaho as one of the top five fastest growing states in the nation. Even during the economic downturn, Idaho's population continued to grow. The total population within a 45-minute draw area is 632,000 people, which is a 32 percent growth since 2000. The median age for workers in the Boise Metro is 34.1 where the national average is 37.2.

Strong Base for Federal Employees: As the capital city of the state, along with a strong air force presence in the Boise Valley, there are a number of federal employees already in the state of Idaho. The Mountain Home Air Force Base has 4,084 active duty military with 5,321 active duty dependents living in the area with an additional 7,480 retired military personnel in the county of the base alone. There are also an additional 1,340 full time military personnel located just outside of Boise (Gowen Field).

Low Costs for Business and Living: The overall cost of doing business is nearly a third lower than California and Washington. According to the ACCRA Cost of Living Index for 2011, the Boise MSA ranked at 96.1% of the national average for cost of living and at 83.4% of the national average for cost in housing. The average cost of a home is approximately \$155,000 in Ada County and \$79,000 in Canyon County (compared to a national average of \$226,000). Boise would be a low-cost solution for USPTO employees with easy access to serve the high-cost market place of other major cities on the west coast.

Trained and Productive Workforce: The available workforce within a 45-minute draw area is 330,000 people; over one third (37%) of the working population in the city of Boise are degreed workers where the national average is 27.9% according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In engineering related fields, there were over 8,000 jobs in the Boise Metro in 2011, which represented a 2.9% growth for this industry (compared to the national average of 1.9%). 2,323 of these jobs were in semiconductor and related device manufacturing, and another 1,000 were in computer storage device manufacturing. This field has been strong in the Boise Metro, with lower operating costs than other cities in the West. The engineering median wage in 2011 for the Boise Metro was \$34.55/hr compared to the national of \$37.90/hr.

Below is a snapshot of potential employees who are looking for employment in engineering based fields. The numbers below only represents individuals registered with the Idaho Department of Labor's job search program; there would be a larger pool of available workforce outside of the list below.

Available Work Force		Boise City-Nampa MSA				National
Occupation Code	Occupation Title	Available Workforce*	2011 Jobs	Entry Wage ¹	Median Hourly Wage ¹	Median Hourly Wage ³
11-9041	Engineering managers	34	510	\$33.09	\$51.92	\$57.34
15-1021	Computer programmers	194	1,026	\$17.69	\$28.00	\$34.32
15-1032	Computer software engineers, systems software	72	1,007	\$27.39	\$36.55	\$45.28
17-2061	Computer hardware engineers	57	562	\$32.47	\$44.55	\$47.50
17-2071	Electrical engineers	61	1,304	\$31.69	\$41.92	\$40.65
17-2072	Electronics engineers, except computer	73	160	\$24.80	\$36.58	\$43.35
17-3023	Electrical and electronic engineering technicians	245	839	\$17.29	\$24.35	\$26.94
Total		736	5,408			
* This number includes employed job seekers registered through IdahoWorks, The Idaho Department of Labor's job search engine (in the past 90 days) as well as individuals claiming Unemployment Insurance in Oct-Dec 2011.						
¹ Boise City-Nampa MSA, Occupational Employment & Wage Survey, 2011, Idaho Dept. of Labor						
² Idaho, Occupational Employment & Wage Survey, 2011, Idaho Dept. of Labor						
³ National, Occupational Employment & Wage Survey, May 2010, Bureau of Labor Statistics						

Looking at legal services, there were 2,218 employed in the Boise Metro in 2011 (including lawyers, legal assistants, judges, and law clerks) with a Median wage of \$31.29/hr compared to the national average of \$38.16/hr. With Concordia Law University opening in the Fall of 2012 in Boise, the trained legal workforce will continue to expand.

Education: The Boise Valley offers families an excellent K-12 school system and many post-secondary educational opportunities. The Boise Valley is home to the fastest growing community college in the country, *College of Western Idaho*, with enrollment numbers currently of 8,500 students after opening their doors in January of 2009. This college has a strong reputation and a 90.6% placement out of their programs, as they work directly with companies for specialized training programs and placement needs.

Boise State University (BSU), located in downtown Boise, serves over 20,000 students with strong programs in engineering, business, nursing and technology. The University added a new doctoral program in materials science and engineering this year and has a total of six doctoral programs offered. *Concordia Law University* is set to open their doors to a downtown Boise location in the fall of 2012. The *University of Idaho* also has a strong law school in Northern Idaho. *Idaho National Labs* has innovative research and works closely with many of the companies in the Boise Valley.

High Quality of Place: Outside Magazine ranked Boise as the "*Best Town in America*". World-class outdoor recreation is within minutes of the Boise Valley including skiing (a local ski resort is twenty minutes from Boise), hiking, cycling, fishing, rock climbing, rafting and more. A full complement of cultural amenities including the nationally recognized Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Trey McIntyre Project, Boise Philharmonic, Opera Idaho and much more.

Climate: The Boise Valley is known for its beautiful four seasons with minimal risk for natural disasters. The airport operates without closures and businesses as well as roads are rarely closed in the winter due to snowfall. At 2,730 feet elevation (a high-desert region), Boise has 234 annual days of sunshine with an average high temperature 90.2 F (July), and an average low temperature of 21.6 F (Jan). Boise constantly is ranked as one of the safest metros as far as natural disasters are concerned.

National Rankings

- "Best Town in America" (Outside magazine, August 2010)

Boise, to put it mildly, has been on a roll. Government, education, and health care remain core industries, but dozens of high-tech startups have moved to town, joining behemoths like Hewlett-Packard and Micron Technology. And while its population has more than doubled in the past 30 years and jaded locals bemoan the sprawl, Boise has managed its growth impressively well: The city is home to nearly 2,000 acres of parks and a 25-mile greenbelt... the older neighborhoods have that Boulder vibe—cruiser bikes, farmers' markets, and prayer flags—only with reasonably priced homes. (Outside Magazine)

- Boise is #8 "Best Places to Live in the US" (Wall Street Journal's Market Watch, Aug 2011)
- Boise is #5 "**Best Performing Medium Metro, Summer 2011**" (Headlight-LLC, Oct 2011)
- Boise is among the 25 "Best Places for Business and Careers" (Forbes, April 2010)
- #9 Healthiest State (America's Health Ranking.org, November 2010)
- #5 Lowest Crime Rate in the Country (CQ Press, 2010)
- #7 Long-Term Job Growth Rate (U.S. Chamber of Commerce, June 2011)
- #9 Top Entrepreneurship & Innovation (U.S. Chamber of Commerce, June 2011)

Diversity: To those outside of the Boise Valley, diversity may not be the first thing that comes to mind when describing the area. But, more than 90 different languages are spoken in the Boise School District. The Boise Valley is home to one of the oldest synagogues in the western United States. Over 800 new citizens are welcomed to the Boise Valley each year from over 20 foreign countries who are seeking refuge from the circumstances in their homeland. Idaho is home to the second largest Basque population in North America. More than two dozen language courses are available through local universities and community education programs. Annual diversity events and resources include the Soul Food Extravaganza, PRIDE activities, Hispanic Cultural Center and the Black History Museum.

Innovation, a stable and qualified workforce, low costs of doing business, and an un-paralleled quality of place are part of the Boise Valley's heritage. We have outlined some of the major reasons that Boise would be an excellent home for the USPTO, and would welcome the opportunity to help coordinate a site selection trip of the Boise Metro region. The Boise Valley Economic Partnership stands ready to assist and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Clark Krause
Executive Director
Boise Valley Economic Partnership
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