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Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
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Dear Mr. Khan,

The Louisiana Business Incubation Association (LBIA) would like to express its support for the United States Patent and Trademark Office to consider locating a satellite office in New Orleans - a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. We know that having a USPTO satellite office in the greater New Orleans, Louisiana region will provide greatly improved access to the USPTO, support Departmental objectives including *CommerceConnect*, and increase collaborations among Commerce bureaus throughout the southern states of the Austin and Atlanta Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration regions.

The Louisiana Incubation Association is comprised of the state's premier business incubators focused on creating jobs and developing local economies. As part of the incubation association, local incubators are able to capitalize on statewide partnerships and draw from a pool of resources.

We believe entrepreneurs are the backbone of our economy. Small businesses make up 99.7% of all employer firms in the U.S., and employ half of all private sector employees. It's LBIA's goal to support the business creation process in order to increase entrepreneurial success. By leveraging the support of economic development organizations across the state, we are able to work together toward common goals. When entrepreneurs and small businesses succeed, our economies and our communities are strengthened throughout Louisiana and across the country.

Clearly, the location of a USPTO office within the greater New Orleans region will help our organization accomplish its goals, stimulate the development of higher quality technologies, and greatly enhance the commercialization of those technologies throughout our region. The USPTO satellite office itself will provide a positive impact to the greater New Orleans region, increase regional patents, and help in recovery efforts resulting from Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill.

A USPTO satellite office in any location within the greater New Orleans area would provide easy access to our organization and any organization from Texas to Florida. In addition, with rapidly growing infrastructure, excellent tax incentives for businesses, and high quality of life indicators, the greater New Orleans region is a logical choice for a USPTO satellite office.

The Louisiana Business Incubation Association looks forward to your review of all of the comments and urges the USPTO to consider the New Orleans area as the site for the new satellite office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Ware". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Ware
President, LBIA