



Docket number: **PTO-C-2011-0066 - "Nationwide Workforce Program"**

January 18, 2012

Mr. Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Mail Stop Office of Undersecretary and Director  
PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Deputy Chief of Staff Khan:

Re: Section 23 of the American Invents Act

I write to encourage the USPTO to select Massachusetts for a satellite office.

From our perspective, Canadian entrepreneurs and start-ups are imbedded in Massachusetts innovation clusters and would greatly benefit from timely and high quality patent examination. Start-ups employ many graduates of Massachusetts colleges and often grow into viable small and medium sized businesses. We feel that the USPTO could not find a better location to position one of its satellite patent offices. A satellite patent office in Massachusetts would also easily service the surrounding New England states.

As you know, Massachusetts is one of the largest centers for intellectual property and has one of the largest clusters of Colleges, Universities, and Hospitals that provide higher education, advanced degrees, and post-doctoral studies in all areas of intellectual property. In addition, over a dozen world-renowned academic institutions for science and engineering are located in the Boston and Central Massachusetts areas with many more within New England. Massachusetts is a world leader in high tech, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and pharmaceutical research. I believe that these industries disproportionately rely on the patent system. In addition, New England universities and their Nobel Prize winning researcher are responsible for the most cutting-edge research in the world and greatly rely on the patent system.

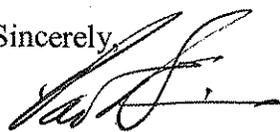
According to your own USPTO data, the Boston-Cambridge-Quincy metropolitan area garnered the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of patents nationwide during the 2006-2010 period. When data from all six states are included, New England's over 32,000 patents and 420,000 patent applications trail only Silicon Valley. Massachusetts consistently ranks 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in number of patents per capita (60 patents per 100,000 people in 2008), with its closest competitor being California.

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Positioning a patent office in Boston, would only further encourage the already vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in Massachusetts, and continue to stimulate the regional and national economy.

In conclusion, I urge the USPTO to select Massachusetts as the location for the next satellite office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Binns', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Binns

Consul General of Canada to New England