



MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

December 21, 2011

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

**Re: Docket Number PTO-C-2011-0066  
Nationwide Workforce Program**

Dear Sir:

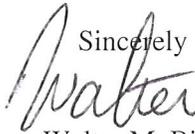
Section 23 of the *America Invents Act* requires the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to establish three satellite offices to carry out its responsibilities. I am writing to encourage USPTO to select Massachusetts as one of the sites.

Massachusetts Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) is a 30-year-old quasi-public entity chartered to help the commercialization of nascent technologies in Massachusetts. We have made equity investments in over 130 Massachusetts companies and have a first-hand view on the power of the intellectual property developed in this region.

Massachusetts consistently ranks first or second in the number of patents per capita (60 patents per 100,000 people in 2008), with its close competitor being California. Our neighboring state, Connecticut, consistently ranks fourth (45 patents per 100,000 people in 2008).

Massachusetts has a highly diverse concentration of IP-related sciences and technologies including biological sciences, pharmaceuticals, nanotechnology, clean energy, software, medical devices, electrical engineering, optics, communications, and others. As you know, these industries rely heavily on the patent system. In addition to its top-ranked technology universities, the state also houses 11 law schools within the Boston area which provides a fertile recruiting ground for high potential patent examiners.

I encourage you to take a thorough look at all Massachusetts has to offer in determining where to locate one of the new regional U.S. patent offices.

Sincerely  
  
Walter M. Bird  
President

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