



January 17, 2012

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Massachusetts Biotechnology Council  
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Dear Deputy Chief of Staff Khan,

I am writing in regards to docket number PTO-C-2011-0066, the request for comments on additional United States Patent and Trademark Office Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program. I am writing on behalf of MassBio and our 600 member organizations to encourage USPTO to select Massachusetts as one of the locations for a satellite office.

Massachusetts is a world leader in high tech, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and pharmaceutical research. Massachusetts is one of the largest centers for intellectual property and home to over a dozen world-renowned academic institutions for science and engineering.

Massachusetts is a hub of innovative ideas and research. In 2010, NIH basic research funding in Massachusetts ranked only behind California. On a NIH-funding per capita basis, Massachusetts far exceeded other leading NIH-recipient states and is home to the Top 5 NIH-funded research hospitals in the U.S. Massachusetts companies in 2005 raised the 2nd highest percentage of venture capital investments in the country at 10.3% and in 2010 Massachusetts companies received 23.1% of all U.S. VC biotech investment – an all-time high. These are the institutions and organizations that are turning out patent-worthy technologies and ideas.

Massachusetts biotechnology and life sciences companies are centered on innovations designed to help meet unmet medical needs. **The life sciences community relies on the patent system as it creates new life-saving treatments for patients around the world.** Adding a Satellite Office in Massachusetts would decrease the number of patent applications awaiting examination and would connect the large Massachusetts community of patent filers and innovators with the USPTO, greatly enhancing the Massachusetts life sciences ecosystem. **A satellite office would streamline the patent system for the Massachusetts life sciences community, accelerating innovation and the development of new life-saving treatments for patients around the world.**

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. If you have any questions or comments on the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to be in contact.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Coughlin  
President & CEO