



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MA 02133-1053

SENATOR
BARRY R. FINEGOLD
SECOND ESSEX AND MIDDLESEX DISTRICT

ROOM 416B
TEL. (617) 722-1612
FAX (617) 722-1058

[BARRY.FINEGOLD@MASENATE.GOV](mailto:Barry.Finegold@MASenate.gov)
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

CHAIR, JOINT COMMITTEE
ELECTION LAWS
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DEVELOPMENT
REDISTRICTING

January 30, 2012

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

Re: Docket number PTO-C-2011-0066 and the "Nationwide Workforce Program"

Dear Mr. Khan:

I write to encourage the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to select Massachusetts as one of three new locations for a satellite office. Establishing a USPTO satellite office in Massachusetts would undoubtedly create better connections with patent applicants, innovators, and legal professionals. It would also aid in decreasing the backlog of patent applications in the New England area.

Massachusetts is one of the largest centers for intellectual property as well as one of the biggest homes to colleges, universities, and hospitals that provide higher education, advanced degrees, and post-doctoral studies in all areas of intellectual property. Over a dozen world-renowned academic institutions for science and engineering are located in the Boston and Central Massachusetts areas, and many more within New England.

Furthermore, Massachusetts is a world leader in high tech, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and pharmaceutical research. As you know, these industries disproportionately rely on the patent system and would benefit from a USPTO satellite office in the state.

Finally, Massachusetts has a uniquely high diversity and concentration of IP-related sciences and technologies, such as biological sciences, pharmaceuticals, nanotechnology, clean energy, software, medical devices, electrical engineering, optics, communication, and numerous others.

Innovation in these areas will continue to flourish, and having a satellite office located in Massachusetts would only further that growth.

I urge you to carefully consider Massachusetts as the location for the next satellite USPTO office venue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barry R. Finegold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Senator Barry R. Finegold
Second Essex and Middlesex District