



MASS
TECHNOLOGY
LEADERSHIP
COUNCIL

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January 19, 2012

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

Ref: **PTO-C-2011-0066; Nationwide Workforce Program**

Dear Deputy Chief of Staff Khan:

Section 23 of the *America Invents Act* (AIA) of 2011 requires the Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to establish three satellite offices to carry out its responsibilities. As the President and Chief Executive Officer of a business association that addresses the critical leadership issues of innovative technology and technology-enabled companies, I am writing to encourage the USPTO to select Massachusetts as one of the locations for a regional satellite office.

The Mass Technology Leadership Council, Inc. (MasTLC) is a business association dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship and promoting the success of companies that develop and deploy technology across industry sectors. As the only business association that addresses the critical leadership issues of innovative technology and technology-enabled companies, we see first-hand the power of the intellectual property developed in Massachusetts. Massachusetts consistently ranks first or second in the number of patents per capita (60 patents per 100,000 people in 2008). A locally-based USPTO office would provide for more timely and high-quality examinations for the large number of applications submitted by the region's highly diverse technology and technology-enabled companies.

Massachusetts is home to many companies that develop and deploy innovative technology across highly diverse industry sectors, such as software, big data/analytics, cloud/network computing, digital gaming, mobile communications, robotics, clean energy, health care, life sciences, and others. As you know, these industries rely heavily on the patent system. Massachusetts is also home for world-class universities, colleges and medical research centers. The USPTO would certainly benefit from the close locally-based connections that a Massachusetts-based regional satellite office would create.

I strongly urge the USPTO to consider Massachusetts as a location for one of its new regional satellite offices.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hopcroft
President & CEO