

715 Albany Street TW1
Boston, MA 02118
(617) 414-1340 • Fax (617) 414-1344
www.massmedic.com



Access, Advocacy
and Information
for New England's
MedTech Community

January 26, 2012

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

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

Dear Mr. Khan:

The Massachusetts Medical Device Industry Council (MassMEDIC) writes in support of selecting Massachusetts as a location for the Satellite office for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

More specifically, I am aware that the USPTO recently requested comments regarding its announcement of the creation of at least three regional U.S. Patent Offices. Pursuant to the America Invents Act (AIA) of 2011, one of the satellite Offices will be located in Detroit, Michigan, and at least two more satellite Offices will be located elsewhere in the United States. The USPTO has requested comments with regard to where the remaining satellite Offices should be located. I am in agreement with the Boston Patent Law Association (BPLA) that Massachusetts is a very favorable place to locate a satellite Office.

MassMEDIC is an organization of medical device manufacturers, suppliers and associated non-profit groups in Massachusetts and the surrounding region. Founded in 1996 by medical device company executives to establish a unified voice for the Bay State's vibrant medical technology sector, MassMEDIC has grown to become the largest regional medical device association in the United States, with over 350 members representing manufacturers, product developers, suppliers, research institutions and academic health centers. Over the past 15 years, the efforts of MassMEDIC and its members have driven MedTech industry success and growth in the region, establishing Massachusetts as the nation's second largest medical technology community.

The selection of Massachusetts as a satellite Office venue makes good sense for the PTO and Massachusetts. I understand that the USPTO is creating the satellite Offices to aid in decreasing the backlog of patent applications and to create better connections with patent applicants and innovators. Therefore, the critical mass of innovators, universities, patent attorneys, number of patent applications filed, and culture of employee commitment to employers here in Massachusetts, are extremely important factors in locating a satellite Office here. The BPLA believes, as I do, that we will all benefit from the USPTO's ability to hire and retain not only recent graduates of the many prestigious Massachusetts and New England academic institutions, but also seasoned scientific, engineering, and legal professionals who want to change careers and

serve the patent system while continuing to be members of our world class scientific engineering, legal, educational, and entrepreneurial Massachusetts communities.

Your careful review in considering a satellite Office in Massachusetts is critical to our innovation economy. Please render a positive decision and outcome as a result of our urgent request.

Thank you for your hopeful acceptance of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Sommer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas J. Sommer
President