



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

January 20, 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

Dear Deputy Chief of Staff Khan,

It has recently come to our attention that Section 23 of the *America Invents Act* of 2011 has tasked the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with establishing three new satellite patent offices. We write to you today in regards to docket number **PTO-C-2011-0066** and to support Massachusetts as a satellite office location under the USPTO's **Nationwide Workforce Program**.

As the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies in the Massachusetts Legislature, we recognize that Massachusetts has a large and diverse concentration of intellectual property-related sciences and technologies, such as life sciences, pharmaceuticals, clean technology, high tech, and many others. As you know, these industries are closely tied to the patent system and would benefit greatly from a patent office located in Boston. In addition, Massachusetts already operates as an important economic hub for the region and would be an excellent location to provide services to the surrounding states.

Massachusetts is also in a strong position to support a US patent office. As one of the largest centers for intellectual property and largest clusters of colleges, universities, and hospitals, the state already has a solid foundation for a patent office. By locating in Massachusetts, we believe the USPTO would benefit greatly in recruiting and retaining patent examiners and in increasing applicant outreach.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of Massachusetts as the next location for a USPTO satellite office.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Karen E. Spilka".

State Senator Karen E. Spilka  
2<sup>nd</sup> Middlesex & Norfolk

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph F. Wagner".

State Representative Joseph F. Wagner  
8<sup>th</sup> Hampden District