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January 30, 2012

Mr. David Kappos

Under Secretary for Intellectual Property

Director for the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Department of Commerce

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

Albuquerque Economic Development, Inc. is a non-profit membership organization representing a few hundred leading employers from the region. AED's mission is the recruitment of new employers or the expansion of existing business and industry. Central New Mexico possesses many unique attributes that make it an ideal location for a Regional Patent Office, which we would greatly value and we know would have a major impact here.

Los Alamos and Sandia National laboratories, Air Force Research Labs Phillips site, the University of New Mexico's Health Sciences Center and engineering school and the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute have all made remarkable contributions to the nation's advancement in innovation. Industry investments in R&D are steadily increasing, as are the number of independent inventor patents; New Mexico clearly outperforms dozens of other states much larger and better known.

The University of New Mexico is a Research 1 institution and has numerous degree programs including those in engineering, law, health sciences and education. There are currently over 70,000 students attending the University of New Mexico, New Mexico Tech, New Mexico State University and Central New Mexico Community College. More than thirty-one percent of Albuquerque's population has a bachelor's degree or higher. The state has a workforce of Ph.D.'s, engineers, patent attorneys, industry and others key to supporting a Regional Patent Office.

The USPTO would also benefit from real estate, labor, and overall operating costs that are all very competitive. Intel, Hewlett-Packard, Schott Solar, Fidelity and the U.S. Forest Service are among hundreds of entities that considered these factors, as well as living costs, diversity, accessibility to health care and recreation and dual career opportunities before selecting Albuquerque.

Central New Mexico has been the hardest hit region of the state since the financial crisis in 2008. A Regional Patent Office would have a positive impact on our state's entrepreneurs, inventors, students and institutions.

Our office and its many allies will be a partner to the USPTO long after your decision to locate here. I welcome the opportunity to talk with you further regarding the attributes of Central New Mexico.

Respectfully,

Gary Tonjes

Gary Tonjes

President

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