

January 30, 2012

The Honorable David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, with nearly 6,000 members and the more than 240,000 Nevadans they employ, is the largest business organization in Nevada. The Chamber supports efforts that encourage innovation, job creation and economic growth. The recent passage of the America Invents Act will provide American inventors and entrepreneurs the ability to remain competitive by removing outdated processes, which will streamline and expedite processing times of applications.

As part of such efforts, the Chamber believes that Las Vegas would be the ideal location for a new patent office. Las Vegas is considered to be a premier international destination and business city. The location of the office in the western United States would be ideal for several reasons.

McCarran International Airport provides millions of international tourists and business leaders the ability to come to Las Vegas and to participate and exhibit in some of the world's most exciting, innovative and inventive trade shows. Every year, inventors and entrepreneurs come to Las Vegas to exhibit, market and sell their products to the global community. Within the United States, Las Vegas is an emerging and growing player in the innovative and technology sector. There has been significant private investment in start-ups and the development of a tech sector is creating a core of innovative entrepreneurs who will benefit from a regional patent office in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas is also considered a great place to live because of its low cost of living, affordable housing market, climate, recreational opportunities and entertainment venues. In regards to education, the area is home to some of our nation's premier career and technical academies for high school students, the University of Nevada Las Vegas and the Desert Research Institute.

The establishment of the patent office would also provide an opportunity for collaborative partnerships with the education and business community. This would foster unified and concentrated efforts to further economic diversification, job creation and economic prosperity in Nevada.

Innovative job creation and growth are an important component to the economic development and diversification of Southern Nevada. If Las Vegas is selected by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), it will provide Nevada the opportunity to leverage its existing resources to stimulate job growth and expansion in specifically designated areas such as health care, aerospace and defense, and technology.

Thank you for allowing the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce to offer its support for the establishment of a U.S. Patent and Trademark office in Las Vegas. If I can be of any assistance or provide you with any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



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