



Office of the President

January 4, 2012

David J. Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

I am excited to hear that the United States Patent and Trademark Office is considering expansion into Las Vegas, Nevada. In addition to being a logical place to establish an office, this would be a tremendous boost for our city and the state of Nevada.

To begin with our community and state have many aspects that would benefit this federal office. For example, the McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas will soon be completing a \$2.4 billion expansion project that will make it a state-of-the-art transportation facility. As the President of the Desert Research Institute (DRI) in Las Vegas and Reno, the airport is critical to Nevada's environmental research institution (DRI) which has scientists working on every continent around the globe. McCarran gives our scientists a nice advantage with direct flights to many international destinations and most major U.S. cities. In addition, Las Vegas is about an hour flight from San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Reno, Salt Lake City and Phoenix.

Secondly, DRI and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) share a technology transfer office to protect and commercialize the intellectual property that is produced through the research activities of our two institutions of higher education. One recent example of our activity is the creation of Load IQ, a company formed by two of DRI's researchers who have developed energy management software that determines how energy is used in buildings. Since 2004 at DRI alone, we have had 47 invention disclosures, 26 patents issued and five license agreements. In addition to UNR, we also collaborate in research with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). All three of Nevada's research institutions rank in the Top 50 in research and development expenditures in the environmental sciences among universities according to the National Science Foundation.

DRI is strategically located in both of Nevada's urban centers to take advantage of what both cities have to offer. In Las Vegas, we are situated near McCarran International Airport and can take advantage of all the amenities this world-class destination resort city has to offer. We host and participate in international meetings here on a regular basis because Las Vegas has convenient flight access, first-rate hotels and convention facilities. For anyone looking to establish an operation in Las Vegas, there has never been a better time to invest in commercial real estate as a result of the downturn in the national economy.

I wholeheartedly endorse Las Vegas as both a destination and a place to do business. I would be happy to speak to you or anyone else on behalf of the city and the Nevada System of Higher Education in hopes of persuading you to bring the USPTO to Las Vegas.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Wells", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr. Stephen G. Wells
President, DRI