

January 26, 2012



SolarWorld Industries America Inc.  
25300 NW Evergreen Road  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Tel.: +1 503-844-3400  
Fax: +1 503-844-3403  
Internet: [www.solarworld-usa.com](http://www.solarworld-usa.com)

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam,

I strongly encourage the Department of Commerce to locate a satellite office of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office here in Portland, Oregon. Oregon is an excellent fit for your organization, its long-term needs and your employees.

In 2007, SolarWorld Industries America Inc. was considering where to locate its North American headquarters. Our goal was to create the largest, most vertically integrated solar panel manufacturing facility in the Americas. We realized our success or failure depended on our ability to recruit and retain a highly skilled workforce. This success factor hinged on the area's livability. We considered many U.S. cities in selecting a site for our facility, but it quickly became apparent that the Portland metro region of Oregon met all of our needs.

We received all we hoped for with our selection. Below are some of the clear advantages we enjoy here:

- Access to a diverse, highly skilled and innovative technical workforce, which seeks the right balance in professional and personal life.
- Clear engagement and support from and proximity to institutions of higher education with solid technical programs.
- Bold vision and loyal support from local and state leaders and organizations.
- Clear support from the region's institutions for innovation.
- Quality-of-life benefits from Oregon's famed beauty and outdoor recreation and well-embraced values of environmentalism and sustainability.
- A safe, vibrant and progressive city that provides strong connections and opportunities to diverse groups -- harder to find in other large cities.

In summary, the region's moderate cost of living, enviable mass transportation, excellent communication infrastructure and innovative business culture make Oregon uniquely suited to achieve your goals of attracting and retaining high-quality talent.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope soon to welcome you as new neighbors!

Gordon Brinser

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gordon Brinser".

President  
SolarWorld Industries America Inc.