



VIA E-MAIL

January 30, 2012

Mr. David Kappos
UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
AND DIRECTOR OF THE USPTO
Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Director Kappos:

We write to express our strong support for establishing a satellite Patent and Trademark Office in Portland, Oregon. As is evident in the proposal separately submitted by the Portland Development Commission on January 27, 2012, siting a satellite office in Portland will aid the PTO in improving examiner recruitment and retention, as well as increasing outreach activities to patent filers and innovators.

With regard to examiner recruitment and retention, Oregon has outstanding and well-recognized science and engineering universities that graduate potential examiners in a variety of disciplines. Portland consistently shows up on lists of best places to live, while remaining relatively inexpensive when compared to other west coast cities including Seattle and San Francisco. Portland is ideally located between California and Washington and boasts an award-winning airport that rarely closes due to weather. Portland's location and accessibility will no doubt make face-to-face examiner interviews more practical and contribute to accelerating examination of patent applications.

With regard to outreach activities, our region includes global technology leaders like Intel, Hewlett-Packard, Sharp Laboratories, Xerox, FEI Company, Nike, Adidas, Columbia Sportswear, McAfee, and Digimarc to name just a few. A satellite office in Portland will improve these and other west coast innovators' access to the PTO.

We urge you to select Portland as the site of the next satellite Patent and Trademark Office.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graciela G. Cowger", written in a cursive style.

Graciela G. Cowger
Partner