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January 25, 2012

The Honorable John Bryson  
Secretary  
United States Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Portland, Oregon location for new U.S. Patent Office

Dear Sir:

I am writing to strongly urge you and the Department of Commerce to look very hard at locating a satellite U.S. Patent Office in Portland, Oregon.

I am the Business Manager of IBEW Local 48. We represent over 4,000 men and women in the electrical industry who are well trained to above industry standards. 95 % of our membership lives in the Portland Metropolitan area. The stark reality is that the Portland Metro area is still experiencing 9% unemployment with not alot on the construction horizon. A sizable construction project like a U.S. Patent Office would be more than welcome in our wonderful community.

In the past 10 years, we have met the challenges of the new "Green" technologies such as Wind, Wave, Solar, EVcharging stations and mass transit by investing in extensive training of our electricians in these new fields. At present, we have over 1,000 of our members helping Intel get their new and faster products into the market.

In addition to the community support this new patent office would bring to the area, in 2002, Local 48 was part of a large group of patent lawyers, high-tech executives, university researchers as well as venture capitalists who successfully passed a bill in the Oregon State Legislature that allows a partnership to get their scientific research and inventions the private funding needed to streamline their efforts to get into the market. This bill was based on the Boston and Austin models. Local 48 has always tried to keep an eye to the future and be ahead of the curve to get and retain work for our area.

The Portland area is a great choice to locate a patent office. The enhanced access to a regional patent office would attract and retain skilled professionals for the U.S. Patent Office. We offer great livability and top-notch skilled craftsmen and women to see these inventions take form. I look forward to working with you to bring this project to Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration,

Clif Davis

Business Manager  
Financial Secretary  
CD:nr  
opeiu#11/afl-cio

cc: Jay Ward-US Senator Wyden's Office  
Keith Edwards-IBEW International Rep

