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January 27, 2012

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

Dear Director Kappos:

On behalf of the City of Corvallis, Oregon, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for locating a satellite office of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Oregon.

Thanks to the major presence of both Oregon State University and Hewlett-Packard, Corvallis consistently ranks at or near the top of the list of cities receiving the greatest number of patents. This culture of innovation has earned Corvallis recognition as "America's most innovative city" after scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratories developed a means of evaluating the criteria equally regardless of city size. (Their findings were published in the Nov. 10, 2010 issue of the academic journal PLoS One.)

For our city of 55,000, this means that our entire economic development strategy is based on leveraging discovery and innovation and coupling it with business and government support to foster successful commercial enterprises and new jobs. This success is often highly dependent on the "time to market" factor that would be greatly enhanced with an Oregon-based patent office.

Additionally, Oregon's recent trend in attracting investor interest and venture capital is impressive, with more than \$120 million in capital raised over the past two years. Oregon State University has also seen its federal research support growing, and its enhanced emphasis on fostering commercialization is resulting in unprecedented success in developing new businesses in promising areas including renewable energy, food processing and production, climate study and engineering-related technology.

Simply stated, locating a patent office in Oregon would accomplish your primary goal of bringing patent services closer to a large number of applicants, resulting in improved service and an expedited time to market. Additionally, it would complement a growing trend of population movement westward, as individuals seek a unique quality of life in a place that offers scenic beauty, easy access to recreational and cultural opportunities, a large pool of young, well-educated professionals, good schools, access to capital, and local and state governments who are highly supportive of their endeavors.

I encourage you to give Oregon your favorable consideration. We stand ready to assist you with this effort.

Sincerely,

Julie Jones Manning  
Mayor, City of Corvallis

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