

JOHN CORNYN

TEXAS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4805

December 22, 2011

The Honorable David Kappos
Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Undersecretary Kappos:

As one who believes that innovation is crucial to the health of America's economy, I have long supported the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. That is why I co-sponsored efforts to end USPTO fee diversion and voted for the America Invents Act of 2011. So I applaud the USPTO's efforts, consistent with the AIA, to establish satellite offices across the country. And I encourage you to give strong consideration to locating one in Texas.

Texas is at the forefront of American innovation, ranking second in the nation in patent filing and issuance. The National Science Foundation recognizes Texas as a national leader in research and development and ranks it third for science and engineering doctorates. Texas is an innovation hub because of its people, industry, medical community, incubators and premier educational institutions. It is blessed to be rich in intellectual capital and technological know-how and is leading the way in promoting innovation and economic growth.

Locating a satellite office in Texas will enhance communications with the applicant community, ensure that USPTO offices are distributed evenly across the United States and guarantee the successful recruitment and retention of patent examiners. Tens of thousands of scientists and engineers have chosen to reside and work in Texas because of its low cost of living, high quality of life and robust economy.

Civic leaders in a number of communities throughout Texas have expressed a strong interest in hosting a satellite office, and I am interested to learn about how the USPTO will make its decision. I invite you to Capitol Hill to brief my staff on the issue and to offer any information you need about why Texas is an ideal location for a USPTO satellite office.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator