



January 30, 2012

Mr. David Kappos
Under Secretary for Intellectual Property
Director for the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Department of Commerce
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

We write to respectfully urge your support for the building of a patent office in the Seattle area. Section 23 of the America Invents Act requires the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) establish three satellite offices to carry out its responsibilities, and we believe for reasons of innovation and geography that the Northwest is the next best place for such an office.

Seattle is the regional capital of the Northwest, an area of thriving innovation in technology, aerospace, biotech, and agriculture. A patent office here would be ideally suited to serve the surrounding innovation centers, including Portland, Boise, Salt Lake City, and Spokane. *Forbes* magazine recently listed the 15 most creative states in the nation as determined by patents per capita. Idaho ranked second, Washington ranked third, and Oregon was sixth. With the main patent office in DC and one slated for Detroit, Seattle is the logical next best place to plant an office that would serve such a robust regional need for patent application processing.

As you know, two of the goals of Section 23 are to “enhance patent examiner retention” and “improve recruitment of patent examiners.” The Northwest is consistently ranked as one of the best places to live and is home to world-class institutions of higher learning, whose cutting-edge innovation and patent work would be nicely served by an office here.

The entrepreneurial spirit of the Northwest attracts a disproportionate number of start-up companies that need timely and high-quality patent examination. Many of these start-ups rely on their intellectual property to grow and potentially become the next great Northwest tech company such as Microsoft, Boeing, T-Mobile, F5 Networks and others.

For these reasons and more, we urge you to please carefully consider the Pacific Northwest as the next best place to build a satellite USPTO office.

Sincerely,

Brad Smith
General Counsel and EVP
Microsoft

Neville Ray
Chief Technology Officer
T-Mobile Inc.

Greg Gottesman
Managing Director
Madrona Venture Group

Paul Lambert
President
Point B Inc.

Josh Marti
Founder and CEO
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John McAdam
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