

November 14, 2011

David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
And Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Kappos:

We are writing to request a meeting with you to discuss the potential for locating a satellite Patent and Trademark Office in Seattle as a part of your Nationwide Workforce Program. A Seattle-based U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) would serve Region X, including Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington state.

Seattle is the largest city in the five-state area and is its hub of innovation and entrepreneurial activity. Seattle and the greater Puget Sound region have a rich history of entrepreneurship and are home to companies that create technologies that change the world. The Puget Sound region is the birthplace of some of the world's most innovative companies, including Boeing, Microsoft and Amazon. In addition, Washington state is home to a diverse economy – ranging from agriculture to clean technology – that is constantly innovating to meet consumer tastes and demands.

By locating a satellite office in Seattle, you will be able to take advantage of highly educated workforce, excellent quality of life, a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem and world renowned research institutions. The presence of a USPTO office will allow our diverse mix of innovation clusters to more easily access your services, leading to increased commercialization of technologies that fuel job creation and exports. Our region has a unique and dynamic mix of established and emerging clusters including:

- Life sciences
- Information technology
- Interactive media
- Clean technology
- Aerospace
- Agriculture

We believe that the City of Seattle would be an excellent choice for the next satellite office to serve Region X and meets the criteria outlined by the USPTO:

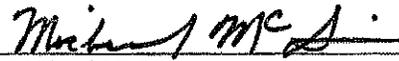
- **Major research institutions, particularly leading universities.** The University of Washington – located in Seattle – received \$1.4 billion in sponsored research funds, was second in federal research funding for public universities nationwide and first in NIH funding in 2010. Seattle is also home to numerous private research institutes, including the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Institute, Seattle BioMed, Infectious Disease Research Institute, Seattle Children's Research Institute, and the Institute for Systems Biology. These institutions are clustered in the South Lake Union neighborhood of the city and use their proximity to one another to work collaboratively to solve the pressing health issues of our time. Statewide, Washington State University and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory are national leaders in research and commercialization.

- **High volume of patenting activity.** According to USPTO statistics, Washington state has filed over 22,000 patents in the last 5 years. The University of Washington alone filed 266 US Patent Applications in 2010. In the five-state region that includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington state and nearly 41,000 patents have been filed in the past five years.
- **High percentage of scientists and engineers in the workforce.** Scientists and engineers make up 22 percent of Washington state's workforce. In fact, the Puget Sound region uses more engineers per capita than any other region in the county, driven by our powerful job engines of IT and aerospace. Recent national projections suggest that this trend will continue, with four percent growth by 2015.
- **Number of patent agents and attorneys.** Washington state has more than 10,000 patent agents and attorneys. The five-state region, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington state, has over 21,000.

The U.S. economy has tremendous innovative capacity, even in the depths of the current recession. Commercialization relies on a system of protection for the intellectual property rights of entrepreneurs, and patenting is the bulwark of this system. We support your vision to encourage high-value innovation and make the patent process more responsive to the needs of innovators by creating a network of patent offices.

As you can see from the signatories to this letter, this proposal has widespread support. We would be thrilled to welcome a satellite Patent and Trademark Office to Seattle and would like to meet with you to further explore this opportunity with stakeholders in our region. Steve Johnson, Director of Seattle's Office of Economic Development, will follow up with you directly to schedule an appointment; he can be reached at (206) 733-9889 or steve.johnson@seattle.gov. Please let us know what we can do to support an expanded Patent Trademark Office presence in Washington state.

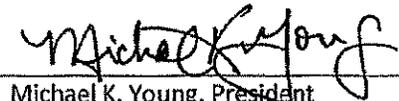
Sincerely,



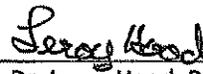
Michael McGinn
Mayor of Seattle



Phil Bussey, President
Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce



Michael K. Young, President
University of Washington



Dr. Leroy Hood, President
Institute for Systems Biology

CC: Senator Maria Cantwell
Senator Patty Murray
Congressman Jim McDermott
Congressman Jay Inslee