

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2012

The Honorable David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
Director, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
600 Delaney Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Satellite USPTO Office in Seattle

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

We write to urge the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to establish a new satellite office in Seattle, Washington.

Washington state in general, and Seattle in particular, is an ideal site for a new satellite office. Numerous leading institutions in life sciences, information technology, aerospace, agriculture, and clean technology are based in the Seattle region. A new local USPTO office would serve the interests of both this community and the USPTO.

The volume of patent and trademark activity in the Pacific Northwest continues to grow, and with it comes an increasing need for USPTO services. Based on USPTO's own statistics, King County has the second largest volume of patent activity of any county in the country and this volume is growing every year. A Seattle office will allow the USPTO to reach out to and more easily serve a concentrated and growing number of patent and trademark filers in the Northwest and beyond.

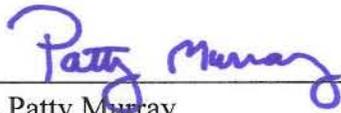
Additionally, the Seattle region's large concentration of scientists, engineers, and patent attorneys is a ready-made workforce that the USPTO can draw upon to begin staffing up the new office. The region's culture of innovation and high quality of life also continues to attract top scientific talent and expertise from around the world, and is thus an ideal location for the USPTO to improve the recruitment and retention of its national body of patent examiners.

Leaders from the business, government, and educational sectors are now joining in an effort to urge the USPTO to locate a satellite office in Seattle to serve the Pacific Northwest region and

beyond. The City of Seattle, the University of Washington, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Institute for Systems Biology, and other business and trade organizations all support locating this office in Seattle and are committed to working together to support the USPTO as it implements provisions in the America Invents Act.

We encourage you to to make Seattle the home of the next satellite Patent and Trademark Office. Thank you for your consideration.

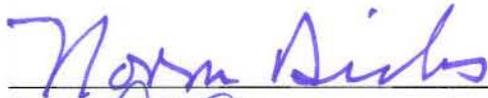
Sincerely,



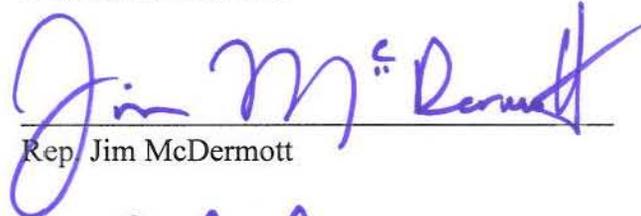
Sen. Patty Murray



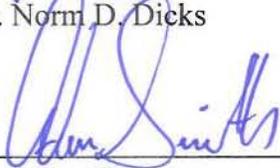
Sen. Maria Cantwell



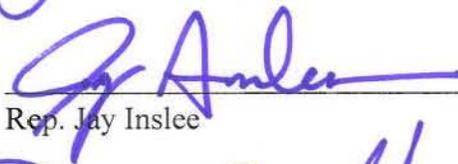
Rep. Norm D. Dicks



Rep. Jim McDermott



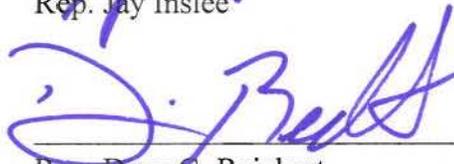
Rep. Adam Smith



Rep. Jay Inslee



Rep. Rick Larsen



Rep. Dave G. Reichert