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December 2, 2011

David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Director of the United State Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Kappos,

I am writing in support of building a satellite Patent and Trademark Office in Seattle. This Seattle-based U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) would serve Region X, including Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington State.

By locating a satellite office in Seattle, you will be able to take advantage of a 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. We believe that the City of Seattle would be an excellent choice for the next satellite office to serve Region X and meets criteria outlined by the USPTO.

The U.S. economy has tremendous innovative capacity, even in the depths of the current recession. A USPTO satellite office in Seattle would further foster the innovative capacity which exists across Washington State. The Washington Biotechnology and Biomedical Association and its members strongly encourage approval of building a satellite USPTO in Seattle.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chris E. Rivera, President
Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association