



January 23, 2012

Mr. 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 223 13-1450

Dear Director Kappos,

On behalf of Spiration, Inc. I am writing to express our support for the establishment of a satellite PTO office in the Seattle/Puget Sound area.

The Puget Sound area is home to many famous companies, such as Boeing, Microsoft, Starbucks and Amazon.com. The achievements of these companies can be attributed in large part to their ability to attract top tier engineers, scientists and other specialists to push the technological limits of their respective fields. The area is also home to world-class research organizations, such as the University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and Battelle Northwest National Laboratory.

Spiration is representative of the many other dynamic and innovative companies that are also based in the Seattle area. Spiration is a biotechnology company developing medical devices to improve the lives of patients with emphysema and other lung disorders. It was founded in 1999 and acquired by Olympus Corporation of the Americas in 2010. Intellectual property was a key component of Spiration's ability to raise venture capital funding to finance its engineering and clinical work and continues to be a key component in our strategy to be a global leader in our segment of the medical device market. Having a PTO satellite office in the Seattle area that gives Spiration improved access to patent examiners will, in our opinion, result in a more efficient process and higher quality patents. We have had several instances in recent years where showing our devices during a face to face meeting with the examiner led to quick resolution of a patent prosecution issue. We would welcome the opportunity to have these meetings more frequently.

Finally, the Puget Sound area has a well-deserved reputation for high quality of life. The region has both outstanding natural beauty and the urban attractions of a growing metropolitan area. I am confident that a Seattle office will be a strong asset for recruiting technical talent.

If you have any questions or would like further information about Spiration, I would be happy to discuss any of these topics in more detail at your convenience.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Shea", written over a white background.

Richard Shea
President and CEO