

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 27, 2012

The Honorable David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313
Attn: Mr. Azam Khan

Dear Director Kappos and Mr. Khan:

On behalf of the State of Oregon, the City of Portland, City of Vancouver, Washington and the undersigned elected and business leaders, we write to you to express our strong support of the attached response to the Patent and Trademark Office's (PTO) *Request for Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Offices* (PTO-C-2011-0066). The America Invents Act (AIA) (PL-112-29) was enacted to provide PTO with the direction and the tools necessary to help spur American innovation and associated commercial and economic activity. It is our hope that after reviewing this proposal you will recognize the many benefits that an Oregon-based PTO location could bring to the nation's patenting process and act accordingly.

From its beginning, America's economy has been integrally tied to creativity and innovation. From Ben Franklin's bifocals and Thomas Edison's light bulb to Oregon's own Walter Houser Brattain's transistor, inventors and their inventions have spawned new industries, invigorated commerce and changed history. Today, our region boasts global technology leaders like Intel, Hewlett Packard, Xerox and Sharp Labs. They join software companies such as McAfee and Digimarc along with athletic stars Nike, Adidas and Columbia Sportswear to create an impressive array of innovators. Unfortunately, as you have observed, our outdated patent system hampers the success of these innovators and others.

As you have noted, the AIA gives the PTO the leverage to restore U.S. leadership in technology policy worldwide. We wholeheartedly agree and also believe the Act provides PTO with tools to reduce the backlog of the 600,000+ pending patent applications by utilizing regional satellite offices to recruit and retain patent examiners. As the PTO headquarters will remain in Virginia, and Detroit has already been named as the first of the three satellite offices, we believe that the PTO must have a presence on the West Coast.

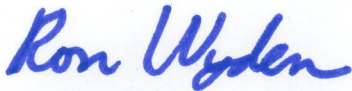
Access to the region's high-caliber engineering talent, well-known affordability and renowned quality of life converge to make Oregon the logical place to locate that office. Intangible factors like these can help to close the gap between public and private sector salaries, reducing the turnover challenges which currently afflict the PTO and hinder its ability to achieve its vitally important goals.

The case for an Oregon-based Patent and Trademark Office is detailed in the attached comprehensive response prepared by the Portland Development Commission. We have also

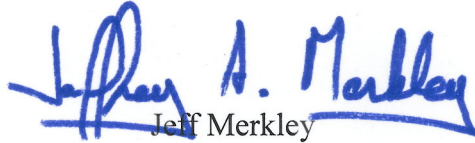
included a copy of a November 18, 2011, letter signed by over 100 civic, business and educational leaders. This letter testifies to the broad support an Oregon PTO office would enjoy.

We urge you to give the proposal—*Igniting American Innovation—The Case for an Oregon Patent and Trademark Office*, your immediate, full and favorable consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Jay Ward in Senator Wyden's Portland, Oregon office or Joel Corcoran in Senator Merkley's Portland, Oregon office.

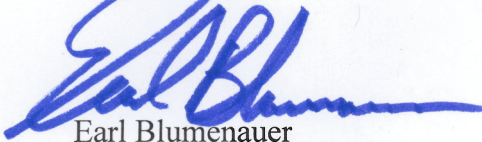
Sincerely,



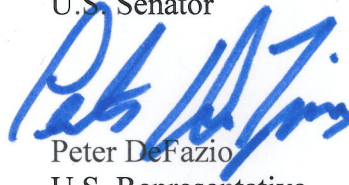
Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator



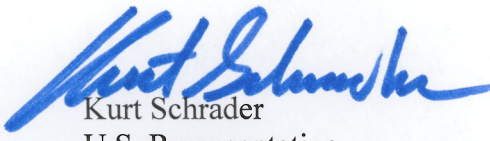
Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senator



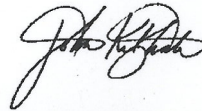
Earl Blumenauer
U.S. Representative



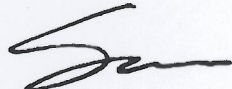
Peter DeFazio
U.S. Representative



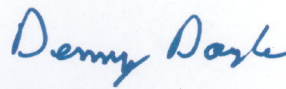
Kurt Schrader
U.S. Representative



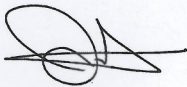
John A. Kitzhaber MD
Governor



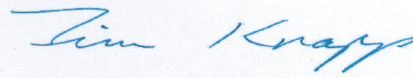
Sam Adams
Mayor of Portland



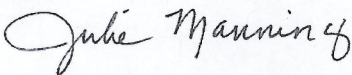
Dennis Doyle
Mayor of Beaverton



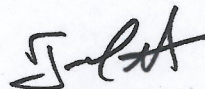
Jerry Willey
Mayor of Hillsboro



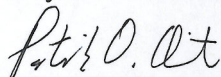
Tim Knapp
Mayor of Wilsonville



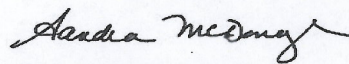
Julie Manning
Mayor of Corvallis



Timothy D Leavitt
Mayor of Vancouver, Washington



Patrick Quinton
Portland Development Commission



Sandra McDonough
Portland Business Alliance

Jay Clemens
Associated Industries of Oregon

Ryan Deckert
Oregon Business Association

Duncan Wyse
Oregon Business Council

Jonathan Schlueter
Westside Economic Alliance

Sean Robbins
Greenlight Greater Portland

Dennis McNannay
Oregon Bioscience Association

Skip Newberry
Software Association of Oregon

Linda Weston
Oregon Entrepreneurs Network

Cc: Mr. Azam Khan
Attachment: Bryson Re PTO 111811