

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2012

The Honorable David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
US Department of Commerce
Madison Buildings (East & West)
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: PTO-C-2011-0066; Nationwide Workforce Program

Dear Director Kappos:

We are writing to express our strong support for the state of Connecticut's proposal recommending the Hartford metropolitan region as a site for one of the three regional patent and trademark offices authorized under the America Invents Act. As the state's proposal underscores, Hartford's location, advanced economy, and talented workforce make it an ideal location for such an office.

Connecticut's economy is diverse, and includes not just a mature insurance and financial services sector, but also a robust and entrepreneurial cluster of those advanced industries that will play a leading role in future economic growth, including software and information technology companies, biopharmaceutical labs, medical device makers, and aerospace and advanced manufacturers. Connecticut ranks fifth nationally on The Information Technology & Innovation Foundation's 2010 "New Economy" Index, and was ranked 8th amongst all states in the number of patents per 100,000 workers in 2010 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Furthermore, the Hartford region will also provide USPTO with a deep pool of talent to draw from. Connecticut workers have one of the highest rates of educational attainment in the US, particularly in the critical fields of science and engineering. Our colleges and universities are world class, including Yale University and the University of Connecticut, which are home to cutting-edge research and development and are an engine of entrepreneurial activity in the state. Twenty four of our colleges, universities, and research institutions offer engineering degrees. Among states, Connecticut ranks third in the percent of our population with advanced degrees, according to the US Census Bureau.

Finally, Hartford's location makes it the center of patent activity in the Northeast and New England. It is equidistant between Boston and New York City, and can access both cities more conveniently than either can access each other. And while Connecticut offers competitive salaries with surrounding areas, Hartford's cost of living is lower than either New York City or Boston, as are the expenses associated with establishing a regional USPTO facility. Hartford also has a large amount of office space available for relatively low rates, providing the USPTO the opportunity to open a satellite office at a reasonable cost.

We have no doubt that Hartford can meet the needs of the USPTO and the region's inventors and entrepreneurs. We urge you to strongly consider the proposal by Connecticut to host such an office and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



JOHN LARSON
Member of Congress



JIM HIMES
Member of Congress



ROSA DeLAURO
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
Member of Congress