



January 30, 2012
The Honorable David Kappos
Under Secretary for Intellectual Property
U.S. Department of Commerce
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Letter of Support for Tampa Bay, Florida PTO-C-2011-0066 Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Office for the Nationwide Workforce Program

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

BioFlorida is enthusiastically supportive of the selection of the Tampa Bay region for a USPTO Satellite Office. With an exemplary quality of life, superior bandwidth connectivity, exceptional training support and travel accessibility, the Tampa Bay region in Florida would be logical as the next home for a satellite patent and trademark office.

BioFlorida is the voice of Florida's bioscience industry representing more than 3,000 companies and research organizations in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical device fields employing 61,000 Floridians. BioFlorida's member-driven initiatives provide a strong business climate for production of quality, life-improving technologies and promote economic benefits to the state.

The Tampa Bay region is an emerging technology center, especially with respect to life sciences, electronics, defense and software development. The State of Florida is home to major bioscience research institutions such as the University of South Florida, University of Florida, the University of Central Florida, and the University of Miami as well as the home to prestigious research institutes such as Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Mayo Clinic Florida, Max Planck Florida Institute, Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, Scripps Research Institute, SRI International, and Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies. Tampa Bay is also home to one of the nation's most robust medical devices industry. Establishing a satellite office in the Tampa Bay region would provide a stable workforce for the USPTO and offer valuable connections to the entities vital for patent grants. Together with a superlative quality of life, a distinctive telecommuting infrastructure and easy access to Washington, D.C., the Tampa Bay region is an ideal location for the next USPTO satellite office.

Sincerely,

Russell Allen, President & CEO
BIOFLORIDA, *Florida's Bioscience Industry Association*