

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 17, 2011

Mr. David Kappos  
Under Secretary for Intellectual Property  
Director for the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Department of Commerce  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

Section 23 of the *America Invents Act* requires the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to establish three satellite offices to carry out its responsibilities. We write to encourage USPTO to select Massachusetts as one of the locations for a satellite office.

Massachusetts, specifically Boston, is the regional hub of New England. A satellite patent office in Massachusetts will easily service the surrounding New England states. This is an effective use of taxpayer dollars when we are facing trillions of dollars in debt.

As you know, two of the goals of Section 23 are to “enhance patent examiner retention” and “improve recruitment of patent examiners.” Massachusetts is home to many world-class universities, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard, Boston College, Boston University, Tufts, and the University of Massachusetts system. Therefore, USPTO could not find a better location to recruit talented patent examiners. In addition, our universities and their Nobel Prize winning researchers are responsible for the most cutting-edge research in the world and greatly rely on the patent system.

Furthermore, Massachusetts is a world leader in high tech, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and pharmaceutical research. As you know, these industries disproportionately rely on the patent system.

Finally, our state’s entrepreneurial spirit and innovation focused universities cause Massachusetts to be home to many start-up companies that need timely and high-quality patent examination. Start-ups employ many graduates of Massachusetts colleges and often grow into viable small and medium sized businesses.

We urge you to carefully consider Massachusetts as the location for the next satellite USPTO office.

Sincerely,



Scott Brown  
United States Senator



John Kerry  
United States Senator