Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2012

The Honorable David Kappos
Under Secretary of Intellectual Property and
Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Madison Building
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Director Kappos:

We are writing in response to the Federal Register Notice for a Request for Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program (Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0066). We would like to once again formally express our unanimous support for a satellite office in Colorado.

As you are well aware, we support USPTO efforts to establish new satellite offices in strategically placed locations that can provide a meaningful boost to our economy. Regional offices can help connect inventors with patent examiners, and enhance the USPTO's ability to recruit and retain qualified examiners. This is why the Colorado Congressional delegation was instrumental in pushing a provision in the America Invents Act authorizing the creation of three satellite offices that builds upon the Office's work to establish an initial satellite office in Detroit.

Our state is a prime location for a new satellite office. Colorado's Front Range possesses a successful public-private entrepreneurship corridor all within a two-hour drive from the capital city of Denver. The corridor is highlighted by major research universities and federal laboratories that allow for collaboration with private companies unmatched anywhere else in the country.

Colorado's central location will enhance customer service at USPTO. The state's location in the Rocky Mountain West offers a number of strategic advantages. An office in Colorado would lower the cost of doing business with USPTO for firms and inventors. Denver International Airport offers over 600 daily non-stop flights, allowing for day trips for investors, executives, and applicants in the region to support the patent review process. Additionally, the Mountain Time Zone enables better communication with entities in the European Union, Asia, and across the United States.

As we have mentioned in previous correspondence, Colorado offers an affordable cost of living to help recruit and retain patent examiners. Colorado cities in the Denver-metro area are consistently listed in the "Best Places to Live" ranking by numerous outlets. This has helped our state attract professionals in high-tech and innovation-based industries who want to live in Colorado for the long term.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Finally, a USPTO satellite office in Colorado would have a significant long-term economic impact on our state. It would keep more companies in Colorado when they are acquired by national and international firms. It would also help stabilize the real estate industry that has been hard hit by the economic recession. A satellite office would spur opportunities for a diverse, highly qualified and educated population to enter science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. And again, the state's central location would allow for convenient outreach to educate innovators across the West, Midwest, and Rocky Mountain regions.

We urge the USPTO to consider Colorado for a satellite office. We strongly believe that a Colorado satellite office would offer countless benefits to the USPTO, inventors, executives, and investors.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Mark Udall
United States Senator

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Cory Gardner
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress