

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 26, 2012

The Honorable David Kappos
Director
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Congressional Relations
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Kappos:

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) will soon select a new satellite office for its operations. We strongly urge you to consider locating one of those offices in Ohio. The PTO is looking for a location with: world-renowned universities; a highly-skilled workforce; numerous patent filers; reasonable cost of living; and a culture of innovation. Ohio can deliver on each of these criteria and is a natural fit for the expanded PTO operations. Furthermore, Ohio's world-class transit infrastructure ensures that Americans can access Columbus with ease.

As the birthplace of the Wright Brothers and Thomas Edison, Ohio has a long and storied history of innovation. Global companies such as Procter & Gamble, Goodyear, Honda of America, and First Solar today call Ohio home and have long invested in commercializing new technology in the state. Ohio also boasts an impressive lineup of world-class research institutions such as the Cleveland Clinic, The Ohio State University, the Directorate of the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory, Case Western Reserve University, NASA Glenn Research Center, and Battelle Memorial Institute.

The Columbus Region is an ideal location for a satellite PTO office. Columbus is home to a wide-array of high-level research projects and is home to a workforce where forty-percent of the population holds an advanced degree and over 140,000 individuals are enrolled as college students.

Ohio offers the advantages of a large state – world class universities, brilliant labor pool, and innovators – coupled with Midwestern value and work ethic. We support the enclosed proposal, and urge you to strongly consider the Columbus Region for U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senate



Rob Portman
United States Senate



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Tiberi
Member of Congress