

January 19, 2012

Dear Friends,

As you may know, I have been working with a number of business, civic and community leaders to convince the Department of Commerce to locate a satellite office of the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office here in Oregon. It was truly gratifying when, in November, over 100 of you signed a letter supporting the initiative. I am writing today to ask you to once again support this important effort.

On November 29, 2011, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office published a Request for Comments in the Federal Register [Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0066]. Since the November notice, members of the patent bar, Portland Development Commission and others have been working with my staff to craft a proposal detailing the many benefits an Oregon PTO location would present for the American people.

Oregon's rich history of creation and innovation in technology, software, sports apparel and more will be prominently featured in our proposal. In addition, our response will address the following criteria which the PTO indicates are especially important to its decision. Specifically, PTO wants to know how an Oregon location would:

- Help increase outreach to better connect patent filers and innovators with the PTO;
- Enhance patent examiner retention;
- Improve recruitment of patent examiners;
- Decrease the number of patent applications awaiting examination;
- Enhance the quality of patent examination.

I urge you to join me by submitting your own letters of support to satelliteoffices@uspto.gov by Monday, January 30, 2012. I would be grateful if you would keep me informed of your participation by copying Jay_Ward@wyden.senate.gov. If you have any questions, Jay Ward can be reached in my Portland office at (503) 326-7525.

Thank you for your assistance and support for this important initiative. With your help, I am optimistic that we will soon bring a Patent and Trademark Office, its associated jobs and an elevated innovation profile to Oregon.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator