

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 14, 2011

The Honorable David J. Kappos
Director
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Under Secretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Kappos:

We are writing to urge you to strongly consider Memphis, Tennessee as a future site for a United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) regional satellite office.

Memphis is a truly unique location that is home to some of the nation's most innovative industries and world renowned research centers. In 2010, the Memphis region generated 150 patents, and has received 109 patents so far this year. Medtronic, the world's largest medical device maker; Smith & Nephew, a global medical devices company; and Wright Medical, an orthopedic device manufacturer are but a few of the companies in Memphis engaged in cutting edge research and development.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and LeBonheur Children's Hospital, two world class research centers, both plan to expand their research facilities in pursuit of patentable products and technologies. Increases in post-doctoral research fellows at these institutions will lead to additional patent submissions, and university researchers at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and the University of Memphis will also increase patent activity in this region.

Memphis can also provide tremendous logistical benefits to the USPTO as well as the infrastructure to capitalize on the economic benefits a patent office would provide. Memphis is home to a number of highly experienced patent firms and the FedEx SuperHub. The Memphis International Airport is a Delta Air Lines passenger transfer hub and is the world's second busiest cargo airport. Memphis is also one of only three cities in the country that has five Class I railroads and has the fourth largest inland port in the country.

We strongly encourage you to consider Memphis as a location for a new regional patent office, and please do not hesitate to call on us if we can provide any additional information as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Lamar Alexander
United States Senator



Bob Corker
United States Senator