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Congress of the United States
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The Honorable David Kappos
Director
United States Patent and Trademark Office
1819 24th Street Northeast
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Kappos,

As the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) selects locations for additional regional satellite offices, we strongly urge you to choose Memphis, Tennessee as one of the sites.

From PhD research scientists to experienced patent attorneys, Memphis has a strong pool of candidates to be qualified patent examiners. The city is the proud home of reputable research hospitals such as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and LeBonheur Children's Hospital. Both facilities are planning to expand their research spaces, which will strengthen the city's ability to recruit a highly educated workforce and will increase the number of patent submissions. St. Jude, which received 4 patents in 2010 and 10 so far in 2011, employs approximately 300 postdoctoral research fellows and has a strong workforce of employees who have undergraduate and graduate degrees in science. LeBonheur, which has received 11 patents, currently has 44 postdoctoral fellows.

There are also a host of colleges and universities in the Memphis area, including the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and the University of Memphis, which awarded 393 degrees in engineering and sciences for the 2010-2011 degree year. According to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Tennessee colleges and universities awarded over 2,290 degrees in Engineering and Biological Sciences/ Life Sciences for the 2009-2010 academic year. In addition, University of Mississippi, Arkansas State University, University of Arkansas and Vanderbilt are in close proximity.

Memphis and the regional area have several companies that conduct a high level of patent activity. There is a concentration of musculoskeletal companies such as Medtronic, the world's largest medical device maker; Smith & Nephew, a global medical devices company; and Wright Medical, an orthopedic device manufacturer. There are venture capital firms such as Innova and MB Ventures. As of November 15, 2011, organizations in Memphis received 109 issued US patents since the beginning of the year. In 2010, 150 patents were issued to Memphis organizations.

Memphis is also an ideal location in regard to cost of living and maximizing agency funding. According to Sperling's Best Places city-to-city comparison, the salary for a GS-11, step 1 patent examiner in Washington, DC is estimated to be \$69,899. The standard cost of living salary for the same position in Memphis would be approximately \$42,676.

In addition, Memphis is an ideal regional patent office location because it is a major transportation hub. In addition to our world-leading aviation infrastructure, Memphis is one of only three cities in the country that has five Class I railroads. These railroads maintain intermodal facilities, which connect to the region's 490 trucking terminals, 11 Interstate and U.S. designated highways, and the city's port, the fourth largest inland port in the country.

The city is home to both the FedEx SuperHub and a Delta Air Lines passenger transfer hub. As a result of this presence, Memphis International Airport has been the busiest cargo airport in North America for the last 19 years.

Memphis offers a welcoming community, affordable housing, and a low cost of living. It boasts a skilled and broadly diverse workforce, embracing people and cultures from around the world. Being only minutes away from Arkansas and Mississippi and a few hours away from Alabama and Georgia, Memphis is an ideal regional hub for the south.

We strongly encourage you to select Memphis as a location for a regional patent office.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress