

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2012

The Honorable John Bryson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Bryson,

We write to express our strong support for Atlanta serving as the location for a satellite U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). We invite you to visit the region and witness first-hand how Metro Atlanta is the universally-accepted gateway to the southeast; it is a central point for innovation, education, research, small business, and trade.

Atlanta is a natural choice for helping to reduce patent application pendency, improve quality, and enhance communication between the USPTO and the patent applicant community. Throughout the greater Atlanta region, many industries, companies, and institutions are breaking technological barriers every day and creating innovations that spur local and national economic growth. As the regional hub of patent activity, there are more patents granted and patent agents and attorneys in Metro Atlanta than anywhere else in the Southeast. The selection of Atlanta would build upon an existing framework; a new regional USPTO would not need to start from scratch in developing expertise, building networks, or ensuring timely patent application reviews.

Through our numerous, top-ranked institutions of higher education, Atlanta and the state of Georgia are working aggressively to cultivate the next generation of technology leaders and entrepreneurs. These efforts are bolstered by the Georgia Research Alliance, a non-profit organization that coordinates science and technology research between the private and public sectors. Together, these institutions and organizations produce groundbreaking research, and help deliver technologies and discoveries quickly to the marketplace.

The strength of our research capabilities has attracted numerous private sector firms. The region is home to many industries and companies that benefit from a well-educated and diverse workforce. Several Fortune 500 companies including Coca-Cola Enterprises, SunTrust Banks, Delta Air Lines, Newell Rubbermaid, Home Depot, United Parcel Service (UPS), and NCR are headquartered in Atlanta. Along with these and other important companies, Atlanta continues to attract new and cutting-edge businesses every year, making the city and state a true center for innovation.

A few years ago, we were happy to host your predecessor soon after the administration unveiled the National Export Initiative (NEI). As a delegation, we are all fully-committed to developing American products and services that can move from the U.S. to a global marketplace. The proximity of Metro Atlanta to numerous outstanding educational institutions, the ripe climate for innovation and new business, and the region's proximity to the largest

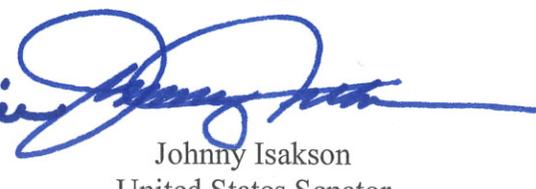
passenger airport in the world and the fastest-growing port in the country make Atlanta a prime location for realizing the goals of the NEI. Housing a regional USPTO creates limitless potential for progress on job creation, innovation, and increasing U.S. exports both in Georgia and throughout the Southeast, one of the fastest-growing regions in our nation.

We believe that Atlanta would be an exceptional choice for the USPTO to establish a regional office, and we stand ready to show you and your staff firsthand the merits of the Metro Atlanta region. As always, we thank you for your consideration of our thoughts on this important issue.

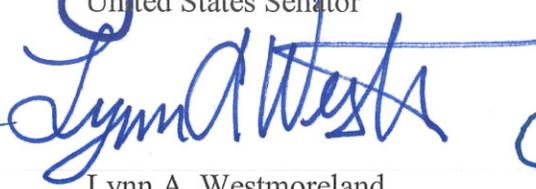
Sincerely,


John Lewis
Member of Congress

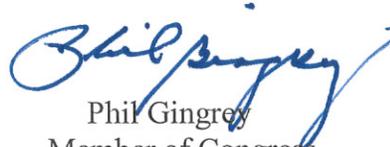

Saxby Chambliss
United States Senator

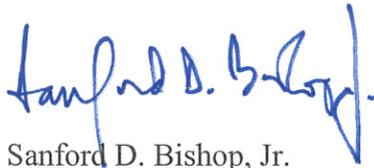

Johnny Isakson
United States Senator

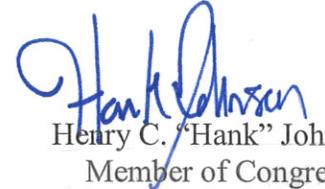

David Scott
Member of Congress


Lynn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress

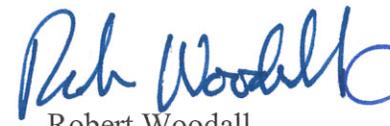

Paul C. Broun
Member of Congress


Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress


Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress


Austin Scott
Member of Congress


Robert Woodall
Member of Congress


Tom Price
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable David Kappos, Under Secretary for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office