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Dear Mr. Khan,

Partners for Stennis would like to express our support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. **Partners for Stennis** knows that having a USPTO satellite office on the Mississippi Gulf Coast or in the greater New Orleans, Louisiana region will provide greatly improved access to the USPTO, support Departmental objectives including Commerce Connect, and increase collaborations among Commerce bureaus throughout the southern states of the Austin and Atlanta Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration regions. The USPTO satellite office itself will provide a positive impact to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the greater New Orleans regions still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill.

Partners for Stennis is a volunteer group who supports space, earth, ocean research and exploration. Our members are from regional Chambers of Commerce, businesses, educational institutions, local governments, Stennis Spaces Center agencies and direct support companies, economic development foundations, and community groups. We are individual citizens who desire to encourage development of the Stennis Space Center Region. Clearly, the location of a USPTO office within the Mississippi Gulf Coast or greater New Orleans area will help our organization accomplish its goals, allow for increased workflow, stimulate the development of higher quality technologies, and greatly enhance the commercialization of those technologies throughout our region.

A USPTO satellite office in any location within the regional area would provide easy access to our organization and any organization from Texas to Florida. In addition, with rapidly growing infrastructure, excellent tax incentives for businesses, and high quality of life indicators, the Mississippi Gulf Coast or the greater New Orleans region is a logical choice for a USPTO satellite office.

Partners for Stennis looks forward to your review of all of the comments and urge the USPTO to support this comment.

al watkins

Sincerely,
Al Watkins, Chairman