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Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Under Secretary and Director
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
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Dear Mr. Khan,

As the State Director of the Louisiana Small Business Development Center, I would like to express my support for the United States Patent and Trademark Office to locate a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. Those of us in the Louisiana SBDC know that having a USPTO satellite office in the greater New Orleans, Louisiana region will provide greatly improved access to the USPTO, support Departmental objectives including CommerceConnect, 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 greater New Orleans region still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill.

The Louisiana SBDC is part of a national program and ours is comprised of a partnership of 13 Universities, the state office for Louisiana Economic Development, and the U. S. Small Business Association. Through this organization we annually provide one on one business consulting to almost 5,000 and training to more than 7,000 existing businesses and those looking to go into business. Currently we have more than 50 individuals that provide assistance to Louisiana's entrepreneurs. That often includes working with businesses that are technical businesses and university professors and colleges that need assistance with patents and trademarks and the location of a USPTO office within greater New Orleans 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 greater New Orleans 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 greater New Orleans region is a logical choice for a USPTO satellite office.

Those of us in the Louisiana SBDC look forward to your review of all of the comments and urge the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynn

Mary Lynn Wilkerson

