

U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

April 18, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

We read with great interest about the announcement to open a satellite patent office in Detroit, Michigan, and we applaud this effort to expand the reach of the USPTO. Since the announcement was made, we've heard a myriad of comments from our constituents, who are excited about the possibility that there may also be a patent office in Silicon Valley. As you know, Silicon Valley has a longstanding reputation as being the innovation center of our nation, where individuals and companies build, invent and patent their ideas on a daily basis. It makes imminent sense that the U.S. Patent Office should have a presence in the most highly creative region of our country. That's why we urge you to make Silicon Valley the next home for a satellite office.

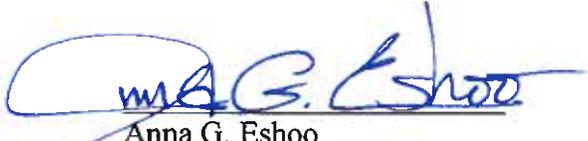
As Representatives of the Bay Area, we've heard from our inventor-constituents about the lengthy, costly and difficult process of obtaining a patent. This, however, has not deterred them. In 2010 alone, Californians were granted 30,080 patents out of the 121,179 granted to applicants in the United States. This makes California first in the number of patents granted to its residents. Furthermore, Californians have consistently had among the highest approval rates for patents.

In addition to companies like Hewlett Packard, Oracle, Cisco, Apple, Google, Facebook and the thousands of individual inventors who comprise Silicon Valley's patent holders, there are world-renowned research universities who use the services of the patent office and who would benefit greatly from having access to a local patent office. For example, between 1969 and 2008, the U.C. Regents held 6,206 patents, and Stanford University alone held 1,803 patents. The patent office would also have no trouble recruiting local talent to staff the office.

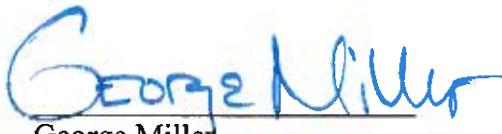
Enclosed are two recent opinion pieces which appeared in the San Jose Mercury News and the San Francisco Chronicle from leaders in Silicon Valley detailing why they believe the next Patent Office should be opened in this special region. We ask you to give

our request your highest consideration as you decide on the location of the next satellite office, and we look forward to being a part of the process.

Most gratefully,


Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress


Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress


George Miller
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


Mike Thompson
Member of Congress


Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress


John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Aneesh Chopra, U.S. Chief Technology Officer
The Honorable David Kappos, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property, Director of the USPTO