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Tom Zdunck

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## County of Bernalillo State of New Mexico

Tom Zdunek, County Manager
One Civic Plaza, NW, 10th Floor, Suite 10111
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
Office: (505) 468-7000
www.bernco.gov/county-managers-office/

January 30, 2012

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

RE: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office location in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Khan:

The Board of County Commissioners has expressed its support of local economic development and recognizes its benefits for the citizens of Bernalillo County. I strongly encourage the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to locate a new regional satellite patent and trademark office in Albuquerque, NM. The new satellite office would not only connect our entrepreneurs to a vital resource, but also create an estimated 100 new jobs within Bernalillo County. Our entrepreneurs and innovators would have access to the following:

- An increased and enhanced connection to the USPTO;
- Insight into the regions innovation and grant activity; and
- Improve the culture of innovation established by our research laboratories and universities.

Additionally, I am confident that the USPTO will find that Bernalillo County offers the best quality of life, cost of living, and a well educated workforce. Our quality of life and innovative culture will enhance recruitment and retention efforts of patent examiners.

I hope you will give the petition to locate a USPTO site in Albuquerque, sincere consideration. I am proud to support this project, which will have long-lasting positive benefits for the residents of Bernalillo County and the State of New Mexico. If there is any way I or my staff can assist in helping you locate to Albuquerque, please do not hesitate to contact me at 505-468-7164.

Tom Zounek County Manager