



November 25, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable John A. Squires
Director of the United States Patent and
Trademark Office
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Request for Comments on Community Outreach Office Locations in States Formerly Served by the Rocky Mountain Regional Outreach Office

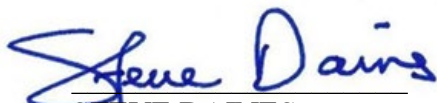
Dear Secretary Lutnick,

We write in strong support of locating a new U.S. Patent and Trademark Community Outreach Office (COO) in Montana. As the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) works to increase access to the patent system and engage innovators across rural America, it is clear that Montana offers the technological leadership and the community-based reach needed to advance this mission.

Montana's innovation ecosystem has grown rapidly and plays a prominent role in our economic future. With Montana State University's newly opened Quantum Collaborative Research and Education (QCORE) facility, we have seen firsthand how Montana is paving the way in quantum information science, photonics, precision agriculture, and AI-enabled technologies. The Department of Commerce's designation of the Headwaters Technology Hub reflects Montana's role as a global leader in emerging technologies both commercially and on campus. Our state is home to world-class research, cutting-edge companies, and students training to be the next generation of inventors. USPTO's presence here would reinforce this momentum by ensuring these breakthrough technologies are protected, commercialized, and scaled.

Montana's rural geography presents real challenges for accessing federal resources. Establishing a COO in Montana would help level the playing field for Montanans who have historically been underrepresented in patent filings, while supporting the state's rapidly growing high-tech sector. We urge the USPTO to give full and fair consideration to Montana as the location for this new Community Outreach Office. A COO here would serve both the high-growth technology cluster and the rural communities that are the backbone of our state. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your efforts to ensure the patent system serves all Americans effectively and efficiently.

Sincerely,


STEVE DAINES
United States Senator


TIM SHEEHY
United States Senator