

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

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September 25, 2025

Hon. Howard Lutnick
Secretary U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Hon. Coke Morgan Stewart
Acting Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Establishment of a USPTO Community Outreach Office in Montana's Bozeman Tech Hub Corridor

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

On behalf of the State of Montana, I write today to strongly encourage the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to consider Bozeman, Montana, as a potential location for one of the new community outreach or satellite offices authorized under the Unleashing American Innovators Act of 2022 (UAIA).

Montana is emerging as a national leader in innovation and entrepreneurship, with the Bozeman–Gallatin Valley region serving as the anchor of our state's growing tech hub corridor. In October 2023, the U.S. Department of Commerce designated Montana as a federal Tech Hub, recognizing the strength of our advanced manufacturing, photonics, bioscience, and software industries. Companies in the region include fast-scaling startups to global research partners, which are driving innovation that directly benefits American competitiveness.

Bozeman's unique strengths make it ideally suited to host a USPTO office:

- **Anchor Institutions:** Montana State University (MSU), a top-tier research university, serves as a national leader in optics, bioscience, and agricultural technology, producing both patents and talent.
- **Access to Underserved Innovators:** Montana is a vast, rural, and frontier state, a strategic opportunity recognized by the Pentagon's recent decision to open a Defense

Innovation Unit outpost in Montana. A USPTO presence here would provide critical access to inventors, entrepreneurs, tribal communities, and veterans across the Northern Rockies who often face barriers to navigating the patent process.

- **Growing Innovation Economy:** The Bozeman corridor has attracted major private investment and federal research dollars, catalyzing high-wage job growth and technology commercialization. A USPTO office would accelerate this momentum.
- **Regional Connectivity:** Bozeman's location at the heart of the Northern Rockies offers accessibility to innovators not only in Montana, but other states in the region, including Idaho, Wyoming, and the Dakotas, which are not currently served by any USPTO outreach office.

This request also aligns with my executive order establishing the 406 JOBS initiative, which directs state agencies to modernize workforce, licensing, and education systems to prepare Montanans for the jobs of the future. By coupling UAIA's mission with 406 JOBS, a USPTO office in Bozeman would help ensure innovators not only secure intellectual property rights but also have a skilled workforce and a streamlined regulatory environment ready to assist in bringing ideas to the marketplace.

Additionally, establishing a USPTO presence in Bozeman would directly advance the UAIA's mandate to broaden access to patenting resources for underrepresented populations and regions, to include those in rural areas of the United States. It would also reinforce federal-state partnerships to strengthen America's innovation pipeline in rural and frontier economies.

Montana is committed to working closely with the USPTO to ensure the success of this effort. We stand ready to provide support to bring an office online in the Bozeman Tech Hub corridor.

Thank you for your leadership in implementing UAIA and for considering Montana's role in advancing American innovation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. My door is always open.

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Governor of Montana