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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP

Attorneys at Law  
1001 West Fourth Street  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101-2400  
Telephone: 336.607.7300  
Facsimile: 336.607.7500  
Web site: www.kilpatrickstockton.com

STEVEN GARDNER  
E-mail: SGardner@KilpatrickStockton.com  
Direct Dial: 336.607.7483

September 10, 2001

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and  
Director of the United States Patent & Trademark Office  
Attn: Ronald Hack - Acting Chief Information Officer  
Washington, DC 20231

Re: Docket Number 010126025-1025-01 - RIN 0651-AB34  
Title: Notice of request for Comments on Development of a plan to remove the Patent  
and Trademark Classification Paper Files From the Public Search Facilities

Dear Sir:

As requested, I am responding to your request published in the August 27, 2001  
Official Gazette.

Replacing the paper files with electronic files is fine as long as a paper backup in  
class and subclass order is maintained. Too many times the electronic database system is off  
line. An electronic-only system would present a problem when an individual attempts to  
perform a search in the USPTO's public search library.

To recap, while I support the action of creating and maintaining a state-of-the-art  
electronic system, I think it would be in everyone's best interest to maintain a paper backup,  
just as you have for so many years.

Respectfully yours,



Steven Gardner

SG:hn

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