

MICHAEL M. HONDA
15TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA



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WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1713 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-2631
FAX: (202) 225-2699
<http://www.honda.house.gov>

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1999 SOUTH BASCOM AVENUE
SUITE #815
CAMPBELL, CA 95008
PHONE: (408) 558-8086
FAX: (408) 558-8086
GILROY RESIDENTS: (888) 643-4715

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 14, 2009

The Honorable David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
600 Dulany Street
Madison West Building 10th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22310

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

As a representative from Silicon Valley, I believe that technology can help improve civic engagement. I have been a vocal advocate for making government information more accessible, particularly by making it available in a format that would allow non-governmental websites to republish the information in innovative ways, such as combining it with other information sources.

I recently received a letter from Carl Malamud of Public.Resource.Org that piqued my interest. In the letter, which I am forwarding along to you, Mr. Malamud describes his efforts to have bulk data from the U.S. Patent database made available to the public, similar to how other federal agencies now make their information available.

If possible, I request that you please speak with Mr. Malamud about this subject and keep me apprised of any developments that result from the conversation. A copy of the letter Mr. Malamud sent to me is enclosed. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael M. Honda".
Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress