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Patent Reforms Are Important to Valley

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Chris O'Brien (Page 1D, March 3) is on the mark in saying the Obama administration's efforts to improve the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office are important for innovation — and it's great for Silicon Valley to see the urgency brought to the patent office by Director David Kappos and Commerce Secretary Gary Locke. Two reforms we'd like to see at the USPTO: Develop a national workforce so patent examiners can be closer to where patents are actually created. One of every four patents are born in California, but virtually all examiners are in Virginia. Also, Congress needs to stop being shortsighted by diverting funds from the office. As O'Brien makes clear, investing in the patent office is an investment in innovation and jobs. Innovation drives our economy, and our patent system is the foundation upon which American innovation thrives.

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