



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

1920 L Street, NW • Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20036
202.785.0266 • Fax 202.785.0261

WWW.ATR.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jonathan Collegio
David W. Kralik
202-785-0266

21 FEBRUARY 2002

New Trademark Chief Cuts Waste at USPTO

Former Congressman James Rogan, who now heads United States Patent and Trademark Office, cuts web camera program, saving taxpayers \$100,000.

WASHINGTON — For decades, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) ran like any other Washington bureaucracy, sporting inefficiency, waste, and disorganization. In fact, the President's own Department of Management and Budget (OMB) shows in its FY 2003 budget that, despite increased funding for the USPTO, performance was not improving.

But there are clear signs of change, since the office was placed under the new management of former Republican congressman Jim Rogan.

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) has learned that Rogan, the USPTO's new director, has halted plans on agency spending toward the \$100,000 cost of a 24 hour web camera to track construction progress at the site of its future home in Alexandria, VA.

Sources close to the project confirmed that the USPTO planned to pay for streaming live video footage to its web site, recording progress on construction of the agency's new Carlyle headquarters. It appears that the proposal was merely for employee entertainment purposes. When Rogan learned of the plan, he immediately pulled the plug, reversing years of questionable project-related spending. This has triggered a top-to-bottom review of agency spending related to the new facility.

"A one hundred thousand dollar budget line for 'employee fun' is completely unacceptable," said taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, who heads Americans for Tax Reform in Washington. **"This is government waste at its worst, and the new management style of James Rogan at its best."**

In 1995, Congress gave the General Services Administration (GSA) the authority to lease 2 million square feet of office space in northern Virginia for the growing USPTO. In June 1999, GSA chose LCOR Alexandria LLC and the Carlyle site in Alexandria, to construct a facility for the agency's long-term housing needs. USPTO's move to the new site is scheduled to begin in late 2003 and be completed in 2005.

"President Bush's pledge to run the federal government like a business was a true breath of fresh air," continued Norquist. **"And that type of reorganization and shakeup would not be possible without the leadership of figures like James Rogan."**

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who support tax simplification and oppose all federal and state tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jcollegio@atr.org