



RHODE ISLAND

**Economic Development Corporation**

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January 26, 2012

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
Office of the Under Secretary and Director  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Nationwide Workforce Program  
PTO-C-2011-0066

Dear Mr. Khan:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on potential cities and regions that should be considered for future satellite locations of the United States Patent and Trademark as part of its Nationwide Workforce Program. I am writing to express the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council's (STAC) enthusiastic support for location of a satellite office in the Northeastern region and specifically for placement of an office in Rhode Island.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century economy is innovation-driven, and patent-related activity is a strong indicator of a region's ability to successfully compete in the development of innovative products and processes. With strong numbers of patents filed, a concentration of top ten law schools providing intellectual property training, growing numbers of technology-based start-up ventures and a host of world-renown diversified engineering programs, the Northeastern region has long been a dominant source of patent activity. Placement of a satellite USPTO office in our region would insure increased proximity and improved service to a large segment of the USPTO's user community.

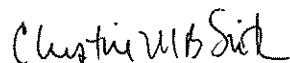
Within the Northeast region, location of an office in Rhode Island provides many advantages. Our strategic, cost-effective location in the heart of the Northeast corridor — approximately 45 minutes from Boston and three hours from New York City — provides direct access to the world's key transportation routes, research and development centers, and top financial markets. Fifty million consumers live within 300 miles of our state. T.F. Green Airport, which is at the heart of our efficient, multimodal transportation network, is ranked fifth among best U.S. airports and first in on-time arrivals/departures. A key component of our multi-modal hassle-free transportation system is state of the art rail; both Amtrak and the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority provide rail service through Providence, our state's capital city.

In addition, Rhode Island is an epicenter of opportunity for intellectual property development with more colleges, universities and hospitals within a one-hour drive than any other area of the world. We have a long legacy as a lead innovator in manufacturing and design, and as home to the Rhode Island School of Design, we have a time-honored reputation for turning ideas and knowledge into products. We also have a unique opportunity to develop 19 acres of land located in Providence's Knowledge District that will be home to a growing academic-medical hub and affiliated life science and medical device entrepreneurs.

Within our borders, we also have a federal lab dedicated to undersea warfare, an industrial base that boasts the second highest in the nation business R&D expenditures in proportion to payroll and an academic medical center that features the fourth highest in the nation per capital investment of NIH funding. Complementing the private and non-profit R&D is a state tax infrastructure that provides multiple R&D incentives, including the most generous R&D tax credit in the country.

With a hyper-connectivity of people and communities spanning higher education, industry, finance, government and the arts that is second to none, Rhode Island is uniquely situated to maximize our dense concentration of science and technology assets and activities. We are deeply committed to supporting the advancement of science and technology-based new products and ventures and thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine M.B. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine M.B. Smith  
Executive Director  
Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council