

January 17, 2012

David J. Kappos, Under Secretary of Commerce
for Intellectual Property & Director of the
United States Patent and Trademark Office
U.S. Department of Commerce
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Kappos:

I am writing to urge you to establish a regional US Patent and Trademark Office in the city of Providence, Rhode Island.

Providence is a diverse city located on the Boston-Washington corridor. Our city is comprised of eleven excellent colleges and universities with over 35,000 students, a highly-skilled workforce, and is located near well established markets and world-class research institutions. Our proximity to these large markets, our own strong and diverse student and academic base, and access to multiple means of transportation (air, rail, port and interstate highways,) makes location here convenient for residents, workers and visitors alike.

Providence is a dynamic and growing city poised for significant economic growth in the coming years. By leveraging our resources, we are fostering the growth of entrepreneurs and R&D in Providence, and our ease of access to other large communities both south to New York City and north to Maine would make it only a logical location for a regional US Patent and Trademark Office.

An example of this evolving entrepreneurial community is the company I co-founded, Betaspring. Entrepreneurial teams from around the country come to Providence for Betaspring's full-immersion accelerator program to transform new ventures into functional, fundable companies. Since 2009, Betaspring has launched 28 companies, many of which have raised angel and venture capital investment. With our new initiative, we are going to be welcoming roughly 40 teams to Providence this year alone comprised of more than 100 entrepreneurs.

In addition to our efforts, many of the colleges and universities are fostering growth in both the entrepreneurial community as well as committing resources to R&D. The University of Rhode Island offers pharmaceutical, engineering and oceanography programs; Brown University is home to the Warren Alpert Medical School and collaborates at local teaching hospitals and with R&D, Rhode Island College offers a Nursing School and is exploring a possible joint program with URI; and RI School of Design has a lengthy tradition of excellence in architectural design and engineering.

With a highly collaborative partnership among the government, private sector and institutional research, we are all of the same mindset to develop as fully as we can, our knowledge economy. The City of Providence has launched a first-of-its-kind HUD funding program called the Innovation Investment Program. This equity based funding tool allows Providence to participate as early investors in new innovations in the bio- and info-tech industries, as well as with our green-sector developers. We are making a sizable effort, in partnership with our public

and private colleges and universities, to promote student engagement and entrepreneurialism; we are quickly earning a reputation among these new and prospective business owners that Providence is indeed, a great place to be. With that investment, we will be able to launch the next and continuing waves of inventors and scientists – and having your offices located here will invite further interest and expedite development of new discoveries, cures and inventions.

For these reasons, we would urge your most serious consideration of Providence, Rhode Island, as a potential New England location for your next US Patent and Trademark Office. Please feel free to contact me, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan K. Tear". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Allan K. Tear
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