I am forwarding you the original package sent last week - which we received your response to - along with another letter from the RI Science and Technology Advisory Committee that did not arrive until after we'd emailed the original package. (It was enclosed in the hard-copy package, which was inadvertently sent to the wrong address, is being returned to us and is being overnighted again.)

Thank you for your quick response on this.

Best
Ann Gooding
January 24, 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

Subject: PTO-C-2011-0066 and "Nationwide Workforce Program"

Dear Mr. Kappos:

On behalf of the City of Providence, Rhode Island, I am writing to invite your most serious consideration of our community as a site for a regional US Patent and Trademark Office.

As Mayor I am proud to boast of our city’s many outstanding assets: chiefly, its quality of life, affordable housing and reputation of excellence for its creative and knowledge economies. We are strategically located on the Boston-Washington corridor and have within our state’s borders some of the nation’s leading academic and health care institutions, including the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island Hospital, Butler Hospital and other outstanding private R&D facilities. Our proximity to all major forms of transportation (air, rail, port and interstate highways,) makes access to multi-billion dollar world markets easy and convenient for researchers, workers and visitors alike.

Providence is quickly gaining prominence as a growing knowledge center – on our own and supporting research along the northeast corridor, we are able to facilitate commercialization of inventions and discoveries with increasing ease. Our access to other large research centers supports their work and leverages our own. For communities as far south as Philadelphia and north to Maine, Providence is a logical location for a regional US Patent and Trademark Office: we would certainly welcome your presence in this community.

Expertise within our institutions points out strong opportunities: graduate and undergraduate programs in architectural design, green technology, information technology, pharmaceutical, engineering and oceanography programs, a medical and two nursing programs and a leading psychiatric research hospital. Equally important is the impact you could make by locating here: we were one of the first states into the recession of the last decade and one of the last out. Our emergence in R&D, design and technology offers great hope for our state economy and could augment the work within the region.
Importantly, our small size is one of our greatest assets – our ability to bring together leaders of business, government, non-profit and institutions on critical issues is remarkably quick and evidenced by the number of letters of support from high-ranking public and private officials. We share a commitment to building this knowledge economy, and a regional patent and trademark office would enable the East Coast states to become stronger participants in America’s security and global economy.

Even on a local level, we are playing a sizeable role in putting capital into the hands of our entrepreneurs. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded us – for the first time in its history – a $1 million program to seed entrepreneurs to bring their inventions and designs to market. This program is called the **Innovation Investment Program**, and is funded through our Section 108 HUD funds. We are taking equity shares in higher-risk developments within the bio- and info-tech industries, which garners us a reputation of being ‘open for business’ within this high-growth sector. With our investment we will be able to launch the next and continuing waves of inventors and scientists: having your offices here will further invite interest and expedite development of these new discoveries, cures and inventions.

For these reasons and more, we would ask you to give 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,

Angel Taveras
Mayor
January 10, 2012

David J. Kappos
Intellectual Property & Director
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 your most serious consideration of the City of Providence, Rhode Island, as the location of a regional US Patent and Trademark Office.

Providence is a thriving small city on the Boston-Washington corridor, replete with many great Colleges and Universities, a highly-skilled workforce, and within a very short distance of multi-billion dollar 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.

Given the emergence of our growing knowledge, economy and resources we are leveraging to develop entrepreneurs and research and development in Providence, and our ease of access to other large communities both south to New York City and north to Maine, this would make Providence a logical location for a regional US Patent and Trademark Office and we would heartily welcome your presence in this community. And while Rhode Island was particularly hard hit in the recession of the last decade, and our reemergence has been slow, these assets are promising.

The University of Rhode Island offers pharmaceutical, engineering and oceanography programs; Brown University is home to the Warren Alpert Medical School and collaborates at area teaching hospitals and with research and development, Rhode Island College offers a Nursing School and is exploring possible joint program with URI, RI School of Design has a lengthy tradition of excellence in architectural design and engineering, and more.

With a highly collaborative partnership among government-research-private sector-institutions, we are all of the same mind to develop as fully as we can, our knowledge economy. The City has launched a first-of-its-kind in the history of US HUD funding program called, Innovation Investment Program. This equity based funding tool allows the city to participate as early investors in new innovations in the bio- and info-tech industries, also with our green-sector developers. We are making a sizeable effort, in partnership with our public and private colleges and universities, to promote student engagement and entrepreneurialism; we are fast earning a reputation among these new and prospective business owners.
partnership with our public and private colleges and universities, to promote student engagement and entrepreneurialism; we are fast 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, and more, 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,

Michael Solomon
President
Providence City Council

MS:jb
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 21st 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 USTPO’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,

Christine M.B. Smith
Executive Director
Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council
The Honorable David Kappos  
Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
600 Dulaney Street  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Director Kappos:

We write in support of the City of Providence’s (Providence) request to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to establish a regional office in Providence.

Providence is a city filled with opportunity. Its efforts to emerge from the severe economic downturn are in part attributable to its vibrant and growing knowledge and creative economy sectors. The city is home to several colleges and universities, many of which are world-class research institutions. With such diverse offerings as pharmaceutical, engineering, oceanography, nursing, and architectural design programs, as well as Brown University’s Warren Alpert Medical School, Providence’s educational community provides the resources and groundwork for entrepreneurs to start and develop innovative businesses. In addition to its stellar academic base, the city’s proximity to multi-billion dollar markets and access to multiple means of transportation (air, rail, port, and interstate highways) make it an attractive location for business owners.

Providence is firmly committed to providing research and development opportunities for entrepreneurs. This commitment is best illustrated by the highly collaborative partnership among government, research, and private sector institutions that has launched the Innovation Investment Program, an initiative which is the first of its kind to receive funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. This program allows the city to participate as early investors in new innovations in the biotech, infotech, and green sector industries. One of the key aspects of the program is the promotion of college and university student engagement and entrepreneurialism. Providence’s investment in this initiative will help to launch the next and continuing waves of inventors and scientists. Having a USPTO regional office located within the city limits will spur further interest and economic growth.
As members of the Rhode Island delegation, we encourage you to perform a full and fair review of the City of Providence's request within all applicable rules and regulations. If you have any questions, please contact our offices. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress
January 25, 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

PTO-C-2011-0066 and “Nationwide Workforce Program”

Dear Mr. Kappos:

I am writing to urge your most serious consideration of the city of Providence, Rhode Island, as a location of a regional US Patent and Trademark Office.

Providence is a thriving small city, on the Boston-Washington corridor, replete with many great colleges and universities, a highly-skilled workforce, and within a very short distance of multi-billion dollar 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.

Given the emergence of our growing knowledge economy and the resources we are leveraging to develop entrepreneurs and research and development in Providence, and our ease of access to other large communities both south to New York City and north to Maine, this would be a logical location for a regional US Patent and Trademark Office, and we would heartily welcome your presence in this community. The University of Rhode Island offers pharmaceutical, engineering and oceanography programs, Brown University is home to the Warren Alpert Medical School and collaborates at area teaching hospitals and with research and development, Rhode Island College offers a Nursing School and is exploring a possible joint program with URI, RI School of Design has a lengthy tradition of excellence in architectural design and engineering, and more. While Rhode Island was particularly hard hit in the recession of the last decade, and our reemergence has been slow, these assets are promising.
With a highly collaborative partnership among government, research, and private-sector institutions, we are all of the same mindset which is to develop as fully as we can, our knowledge economy. The City has launched a first-of-its-kind in the history of the US HUD funding program called, Innovation Investment Program. This equity based funding tool allows the city to participate as early investors in new innovations in the bio and info-tech industries, also with our green-sector developers. We are making a sizeable effort, in partnership with our public and private colleges and universities, to promote student engagement and entrepreneurialism. We are fast 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, and more, 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,

Governor

Lincoln Chafee
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:

Subject: PTO-C-2011-0066 and “Nationwide Workforce Program.”

I am writing to urge your most serious consideration of the city of Providence, Rhode Island, as a location of a regional US Patent and Trademark Office.

Providence is a thriving small city, on the Boston-Washington corridor, replete with many great colleges and universities, a highly-skilled workforce, and within a very short distance of multi-billion dollar 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 our location appealing for residents, workers and visitors alike.

Given the emergence of our growing knowledge economy and the resources we are leveraging to develop 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, this would be an ideal location for a regional US Patent and Trademark Office. In addition, the University of Rhode Island offers pharmaceutical, engineering and oceanography programs; Brown University is home to the Warren Alpert Medical School and collaborates at area teaching hospitals and with R&D; Rhode Island College offers a Nursing School and is exploring possible joint program with URI; RI School of Design has a lengthy tradition of excellence in architectural design and engineering, and more.

And while Rhode Island was particularly hard hit in the recession of the last decade, and our reemergence has been slow, these assets are promising.

With highly collaborative partnerships among government-research-private sector-institutions, we are all of the same mind to develop as fully as we can, our knowledge economy. As Rhode Island continues to transition from a manufacturing-based economy to a 21st century, knowledge and skills-based economy, it is vital that state agencies, educational institutions and businesses continue to work together to strengthen
resources, training and information to continue to address industry standards and the needs of our businesses and job seekers.

We are making a sizeable effort, in partnership with our municipalities, public and private colleges and universities, to promote student entrepreneurialism and retention; we are fast earning a reputation among these new and prospective business owners that Rhode Island 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, and more, 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,

M. Teresa Paiva Weed
President of the Senate
January 23, 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:

Subject: PTO-C-2011-0066 and “Nationwide Workforce Program.”

I am writing to urge your most serious consideration of the city of Providence, Rhode Island, as a location of a regional US Patent and Trademark Office.

Providence is a thriving small city, on the Boston-Washington corridor, replete with many great colleges and universities, a highly-skilled workforce, and within a very short distance of multi-billion dollar 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 our location appealing for residents, workers and visitors alike.

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For these reasons, and more, 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,

Maryellen Goodwin
Senator – District 1

Paul V. Jabour
Senator – District 5

Juan M. Pichardo
Senator – District 2

Harold M. Metts
Senator – District 6

Rhoda E. Perry
Senator – District 3

Frank A. Ciccone, III
Senator – District 7

Dominick J. Ruggerio
Senator – District 4
January 10, 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 your most serious consideration of the city of Providence, Rhode Island, as a location of a regional US Patent and Trademark Office.

Providence is a thriving small city, on the Boston-Washington corridor, replete with many great colleges and universities, a highly-skilled workforce, and within a very short distance of multi-billion dollar 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.

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And while Rhode Island was particularly hard hit in the recession of the last decade, and our reemergence has been slow, these assets are promising.
With a highly collaborative partnership among government-research-private sector-institutions, we are all of the same mind to develop as fully as we can, our knowledge economy. The City has launched a first-of-its-kind in the history of US HUD funding program called, Innovation Investment Program. This equity based funding tool allows the city to participate as early investors in new innovations in the bio- and info-tech industries, also with our green-sector developers. We are making a sizeable effort, in partnership with our public and private colleges and universities, to promote student engagement and entrepreneurialism; we are fast 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, and more, 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,

Gordon D. Fox
Speaker of the House

GDF/rd
January 19, 2012

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

RE: Docket No. PTO-C 2011-0066

Mr. Kappos:

We, the undersigned members of the Providence delegation to the Rhode Island House of Representatives, write to encourage your serious consideration of the City of Providence as the location for a regional U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Allow us to share with you some of the reasons that we believe that Providence would be an ideal location for such an office.

While Providence, and Rhode Island, has been hard-hit by the recession of the last decade, our state and its capital city are poised to emerge from the downturn stronger than ever before. Providence has a remarkable quality of life, extraordinary knowledge and creative economies, world class universities and colleges with more than 35,000 full-time students. Our city also provides access to outstanding research and development facilities, through our highly-regarded hospitals and health care institutions, as well as private and public institutions of higher learning.

Providence also provides proximity to multi-billion dollar markets, with our convenient placement along the New York – Boston corridor, and with the ability to provide services to communities south of Providence and into Connecticut and to the north to Massachusetts and other New England states. While Providence provides all the important services and amenities of a major city, we do so without many of the inconveniences of larger communities. Providence boasts access to all major forms of transportation – rail, air and highway.
We have an already well-established knowledge district and a strongly emerging knowledge economy. The recent relocation of the I-195 highway has provided the city with ample space for future development and it is the intent of those who are planning for growth in this area to concentrate on attracting knowledge-based industry.

Our city provides grants to entrepreneurs through a first-of-its-kind in the nation Innovation Investment Program and it also partners with the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce in grants to emerging technology businesses. Providence has the fourth highest per capita NIH funding, with 40 percent more knowledge workers than the national average, and we also boast the RI Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Tech Collective of RI.

Providence has an historic reputation for manufacturing and research excellence, dating back centuries, and the area that was once known as the Jewelry Capital of the world is now re-tooling to attract medical and manufacturing research companies. The city is still known for its strong engineering, life- and bio-tech programs, most notably those at Brown University and its Warren Alpert Medical School.

Ranked fourth in the nation for its digital economy and second in the U.S. for Internet speed, Rhode Island was recently cited as the most widely-covered state for mobile broadband.

All these reasons, plus the state’s strong public-private partnerships for growth of entrepreneurialism and knowledge economy make Providence, we believe, an outstanding choice for location of a U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

We therefore urge you to give serious consideration of Providence as a potential New England location for your next office.

Thank you for your attention and please feel free to contact us if you need any further information of have any questions.

Sincerely,

Anastasia P. Williams  
Co-Chair

John M. Carnevale  
Co-Chair
January 18, 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 your most serious consideration of the city of Providence, Rhode Island, as a location of a regional US Patent and Trademark Office.

Providence is a thriving small city, on the Boston-Washington corridor, replete with many great colleges and universities, a highly-skilled workforce, and within a very short distance of multi-billion dollar 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.

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For these reasons, and more, 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,

David M. Dooley, Ph.D.
President
January 11, 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 your most serious consideration of the city of Providence, Rhode Island, as a location of a regional US Patent and Trademark Office.

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January 11, 2012

your offices located here will invite further interest and expedite development of new discoveries, cures and inventions.

For these reasons, and more, 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,

Timothy J. Babineau, M.D.
President and CEO

The Miriam Hospital
Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children’s Hospital
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:

On behalf of the RI Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (RI-CIE), I am writing to urge you to consider Providence, Rhode Island as a location for a regional US Patent and Trademark Office.

Leaders from education, government and the private sector have been working successfully to advance Providence's “knowledge economy” in recent years. World-class universities and hospitals have teamed up with government and the business community to accelerate the attraction and cultivation of businesses that have intellectual property as the basis for competitive advantage. Furthermore, sponsored research awards received by Brown University, University of Rhode Island, Woman & Infants Hospital, Rhode Island Hospital, and RI Veterans Administration Hospital, to name a few, have been on the rise underscoring our strength as a regional powerhouse for intellectual capital.

Located within the Boston-Washington corridor, Providence is perfectly located to serve the needs of the northeast. Access to Providence is excellent (air, rail and interstate highway) and more convenient and efficient than travel to larger urban centers such as Boston, New York or Washington.

I can attest to the fact that professionals love living in Rhode Island for its quality of life. I believe the Patent and Trademark Office will be able to attract leadership and staff who would see RI as a fabulous place to live and work. Our proximity to the oceans, countryside, and cultural centers is combined with affordable housing and excellent public and private schools. Moreover, Providence is a vibrant capital city with amazing art, music, athletics, dining and historic attractions.

The City has launched a first-of-its-kind funding program called Innovation Investment Program. We are excited that this equity-based funding will attract more new IP-based bio, info and green-tech industries.

Despite our assets, Rhode Island has been particularly hard hit by the recession and our need for more professional career opportunities is real. You can be assured that our city and state leaders would be a welcoming partner with the PTO and that a new office in RI would make a major, positive impact.

For these reasons, and more, I urge your most serious consideration of Providence, Rhode Island as a potential New England location for your next US Patent and Trademark Office.

With best wishes,

Brendan McNally
Director
January 16, 2012

Mr. 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, DC 20554

Docket number PTO-C-2011-0066 and the “Nationwide Workforce Program”

Dear Mr. Kappos:

I am writing to urge your most serious consideration of the city of Providence, Rhode Island, as a location for a regional US Patent and Trademark Office.

As President of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, we have actively been leading the effort to grow our knowledge based economy in Providence and Rhode Island. This effort is focused on leveraging Providence’s economic assets including our world-class institutions of higher education and our leading medical facilities. Building on the strengths of our institutions such as Ivy League Brown University and the Warren Alpert Medical School, the world renowned Rhode Island School of Design and the cutting-edge research and development ongoing at the University of Rhode Island, we are focused on our knowledge and innovation sectors such as life sciences, alternative energy, design and entrepreneurship.

We are working to grow our pipeline of startup companies and foster growth of new companies in these sectors. We work in collaboration with our partners in higher education, medical and government sectors. We provide seed capital for innovative projects in the knowledge sectors partnering with the City of Providence and we work closely with the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council to foster the growth of innovation in our state. We also have a unique opportunity to develop 19 acres of land located in Providence’s knowledge district for medical device and research firms and we are focused on growing our entrepreneurial pipeline.

The Chamber in conjunction with the Rhode Island Science & Advisory Council recently conducted a Benchmarking report of our knowledge economy in Rhode Island and one of the indicators reviewed was the number of patents issued. Our report found that New England as a whole had the highest number of patents issued per 1,000 residents in the country. In addition, Rhode Island ranks 4th nationally in Not-For-Profit Research & Development, 7th in Academic Research & Development and 8th in Federal Research & Development Performance.
Providence is centrally located in close proximity to New York and less than an hour from Boston and access to multi-billion markets. We have an excellent multi-modal hassle-free transportation system consisting of T.F. Green Airport, state of the art rail (both Amtrak and the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority provide rail service through Providence) port facilities and convenient highway connections.

Given the emergence of our growing knowledge economy and the resources we are leveraging to develop entrepreneurs and increase our research and development efforts in Providence, and our ease of access to other large communities both south to New York City and north to Maine, this would be a logical location for a regional US Patent and Trademark Office, and we would heartily welcome your presence in this community.

For these reasons, and more, 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,

Laurie White
President
January 23, 2012

Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0066
Nationwide Workforce Program

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 your most serious consideration of the city of Providence, Rhode Island as the future location of a regional US Patent and Trademark Office.

As a thriving small city on the Boston-Washington corridor, Providence fosters an assortment of esteemed colleges and universities as well as a highly-skilled workforce. Our proximity to multi-billion dollar markets and research institutions, in conjunction with our diverse scholastic centers and access to multiple means of transportation (air, rail, port and interstate highways) makes our location convenient for residents and visitors alike.

Providence would be a logical location for a regional US Patent and Trademark Office, and we heartily welcome your presence in this community. Our knowledge economy is ever-growing (35,000+ full-time students), we are continuously leveraging to develop local entrepreneurs and R&D, and we are conveniently positioned between New York and Boston. Historically, Rhode Island was known as the jewelry capital of the nation—a reputation we are now re-tooling to include medical devices and research manufacturing. Brown University and the University of Rhode Island possess remarkably strong programs in engineering, pharmaceuticals and medicine, while the Rhode Island School of Design is renowned nationwide for its architecture, fine arts and engineering programs. Numerous recipients of MacArthur Awards, Nobel Prizes, Pulitzer Prizes, and Guggenheim Fellows have hailed from Rhode Island’s esteemed colleges and universities.

And although we endured a particularly hard hit in the recent recession, we are reemerging slowly—these assets are promising.

With a highly collaborative partnership among government-research-private-sector institutions, Providence aims to develop our knowledge economy to its full potential. We have launched a funding agenda called the Innovation Investment Program: an equity-based funding tool that allows the city to participate as an early investor in new bio and info-tech industry innovations, often providing grants to up-and-coming entrepreneurs. The Innovation Investment Program is the first of its kind in the history of the United States. Providence is making a sizeable effort to promote student engagement and entrepreneurialism; we are quickly earning a reputation among prospective business owners as a city
budding with potential. With investments we will be able to launch the next wave of inventors and scientists – and having your offices located here will invite further interest and expedite development of new discoveries, cures and inventions.

We urge 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,

Stephen Lane, CEO and Co-Founder
Ximedica LLC
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,

Allan K. Tear
(401)-301-0849
atear@betaspring.com
January 24, 2012

Via Email (satelliteoffices@uspto.gov)

Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Under Secretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: DOCKET NO. PTO-C-2011-0066
Providence, RI – USPTO Satellite Office for the
Nationwide Workforce Program

Dear Mr. Khan:

I am writing to strongly urge the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to select Providence, Rhode Island as the headquarters of a NorthEast Corridor Regional Patent Office covering seven states including RI, CT, NY, NH, VT, ME, and MA for the following reasons.

First, in 2010, the Northeast Corridor including Providence, RI combined had 15,734 granted patents which represents almost 15% of all patent grants of U.S. Origin.

Second, Providence, Rhode Island is located less than a three hour drive from all key commercial areas located in the NorthEast Corridor.

Third, Providence, RI has access to all major forms of transportation including Amtrak, TF Green Airport, and Interstate I-95 which not only connects Providence to the NorthEast Corridor but also to Alexandria, VA -headquarters of the USPTO.

Fourth, Rhode Island is 2nd in the US for Internet speed which is critical in supporting a nationwide workforce program.

Fifth, the NorthEast Corridor including Providence, RI is home to an occupational cluster of patent attorneys and agents.

Sincerely,
BARLOW, JOSEPHS & HOLMES, LTD.

Daniel J. Holmander, Esq.
USPTO Registered Patent Attorney