



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House, Room 224
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401-222-2080

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

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.

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lincoln Chafee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "C".

Lincoln Chafee
Governor