



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

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

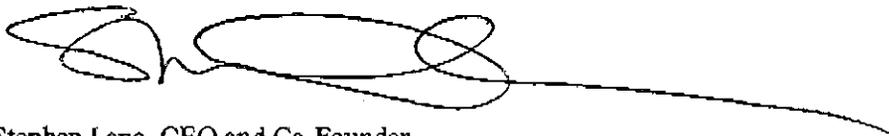
With a highly collaborative partnership among government-research-private-sector institutions, Providence aims to develop our knowledge economy to its full potential. We have launched a funding agenda called the Innovation Investment Program: an equity-based funding tool that allows the city to participate 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

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Lane', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephen Lane, CEO and Co-Founder  
Ximedica LLC