



Putting Knowledge to Work

Rhode Island Center
for Innovation and
Entrepreneurship

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January 19, 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:

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