

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 24, 2012

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