



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
Office of the President of the Senate  
Room 318 State House  
Providence  
02903

M. TERESA PAIVA WEED  
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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:

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

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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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Teresa Paiva Weed". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

M. Teresa Paiva Weed  
President of the Senate