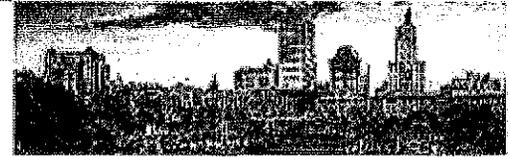




dup
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Rhode Island's resource for business advocacy, action, progress and policies.



January 16, 2012

Mr. 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, DC 20554

Docket number PTO-C-2011-0066 and the "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 for a regional US Patent and Trademark Office.

As President of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, we have actively been leading the effort to grow our knowledge based economy in Providence and Rhode Island. This effort is focused on leveraging Providence's economic assets including our world-class institutions of higher education and our leading medical facilities. Building on the strengths of our institutions such as Ivy League Brown University and the Warren Alpert Medical School, the world renowned Rhode Island School of Design and the cutting-edge research and development ongoing at the University of Rhode Island, we are focused on our knowledge and innovation sectors such as life sciences, alternative energy, design and entrepreneurship.

We are working to grow our pipeline of startup companies and foster growth of new companies in these sectors. We work in collaboration with our partners in higher education, medical and government sectors. We provide seed capital for innovative projects in the knowledge sectors partnering with the City of Providence and we work closely with the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council to foster the growth of innovation in our state. We also have a unique opportunity to develop 19 acres of land located in Providence's knowledge district for medical device and research firms and we are focused on growing our entrepreneurial pipeline.

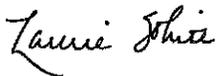
The Chamber in conjunction with the Rhode Island Science & Advisory Council recently conducted a Benchmarking report of our knowledge economy in Rhode Island and one of the indicators reviewed was the number of patents issued. Our report found that New England as a whole had the highest number of patents issued per 1,000 residents in the country. In addition, Rhode Island ranks 4th nationally in Not-For-Profit Research & Development, 7th in Academic Research & Development and 8th in Federal Research & Development Performance.

Providence is centrally located in close proximity to New York and less than an hour from Boston and access to multi-billion markets. We have an excellent multi-modal hassle-free transportation system consisting of T.F. Green Airport, state of the art rail (both Amtrak and the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority provide rail service through Providence) port facilities and convenient highway connections.

Given the emergence of our growing knowledge economy and the resources we are leveraging to develop entrepreneurs and increase our research and development efforts 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.

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 "Laurie White".

Laurie White
President