



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE ANASTASIA P. WILLIAMS, *District 9*
Chair, Committee on Labor

January 19, 2012

David J. Kappos, Under Secretary of Commerce
for Intellectual Property & Director of the
United States Patents and Trademark Office
U.S. Department of Commerce
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Docket No. PTO-C 2011-0066

Mr. Kappos:

We, the undersigned members of the Providence delegation to the Rhode Island House of Representatives, write to encourage your serious consideration of the City of Providence as the location for a regional U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Allow us to share with you some of the reasons that we believe that Providence would be an ideal location for such an office.

While Providence, and Rhode Island, has been hard-hit by the recession of the last decade, our state and its capital city are poised to emerge from the downturn stronger than ever before. Providence has a remarkable quality of life, extraordinary knowledge and creative economies, world class universities and colleges with more than 35,000 full-time students. Our city also provides access to outstanding research and development facilities, through our highly-regarded hospitals and health care institutions, as well as private and public institutions of higher learning.

Providence also provides proximity to multi-billion dollar markets, with our convenient placement along the New York – Boston corridor, and with the ability to provide services to communities south of Providence and into Connecticut and to the north to Massachusetts and other New England states. While Providence provides all the important services and amenities of a major city, we do so without many of the inconveniences of larger communities. Providence boasts access to all major forms of transportations – rail, air and highway.

We have an already well-established knowledge district and a strongly emerging knowledge economy. The recent relocation of the I-195 highway has provided the city with ample space for future development and it is the intent of those who are planning for growth in this area to concentrate on attracting knowledge-based industry.

Our city provides grants to entrepreneurs through a first-of-its-kind in the nation Innovation Investment Program and it also partners with the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce in grants to emerging technology businesses. Providence has the fourth highest per capita NIH funding, with 40 percent more knowledge workers than the national average, and we also boast the RI Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Tech Collective of RI.

Providence has an historic reputation for manufacturing and research excellence, dating back centuries, and the area that was once known as the Jewelry Capital of the world is now re-tooling to attract medical and manufacturing research companies. The city is still known for its strong engineering, life- and bio-tech programs, most notably those at Brown University and its Warren Alpert Medical School.

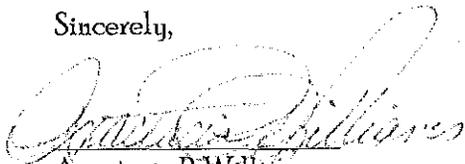
Ranked fourth in the nation for its digital economy and second in the U.S. for Internet speed, Rhode Island was recently cited as the most widely-covered state for mobile broadband.

All these reasons, plus the state's strong public-private partnerships for growth of entrepreneurialism and knowledge economy make Providence, we believe, an outstanding choice for location of a U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

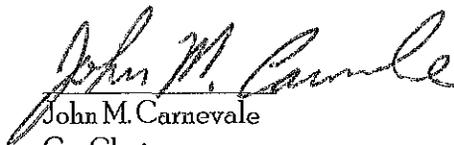
We therefore urge you to give serious consideration of Providence as a potential New England location for your next office.

Thank you for your attention and please feel free to contact us if you need any further information or have any questions.

Sincerely,



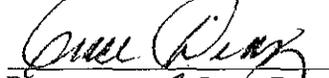
Anastasia P. Williams
Co-Chair



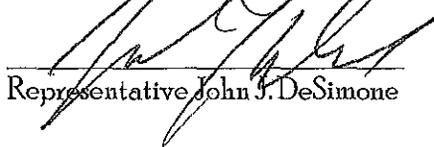
John M. Carnevale
Co-Chair



Speaker Gordon D. Fox

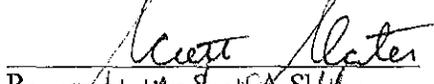


Representative Grace Diaz



Representative John J. DeSimone

Representative John McCauley, Jr.



Representative Scott A. Slater



Representative Edith H. Ajello

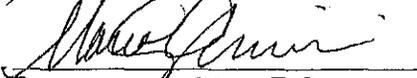
Senator Frank A. Ciccone

Senator Harold M. Metts

Senator Juan M. Pichardo

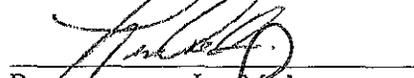


Representative Raymond A. Hull



Representative Maria E. Cimini

Representative Christopher R. Blazejewski



Representative Leon Medina



Representative Michael A. Tarro

Senator Maryellen Goodwin

Senator Paul V. Jabour

Senator Rhoda E. Perry

Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio