January 24, 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

Subject: PTO-C-2011-0066 and "Nationwide Workforce Program"

Dear Mr. Kappos:

On behalf of the City of Providence, Rhode Island, I am writing to invite your most serious
consideration of our community as a site for a regional US Patent and Trademark Office.

As Mayor I am proud to boast of our city's many outstanding assets: chiefly, its quality of life, affordable
housing and reputation of excellence for its creative and knowledge economies. We are strategically
located on the Boston-Washington corridor and have within our state's borders some of the nation's
leading academic and health care institutions, including the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island
Hospital, Butler Hospital and other outstanding private R&D facilities. Our proximity to all major forms
of transportation (air, rail, port and interstate highways,) makes access to multi-billion dollar world
markets easy and convenient for researchers, workers and visitors alike.

Providence is quickly gaining prominence as a growing knowledge center – on our own and supporting
research along the northeast corridor, we are able to facilitate commercialization of inventions and
discoveries with increasing ease. Our access to other large research centers supports their work and
leverages our own. For communities as far south as Philadelphia and north to Maine, Providence is a
logical location for a regional US Patent and Trademark Office: we would certainly welcome your
presence in this community.

Expertise within our institutions points out strong opportunities: graduate and undergraduate programs
in architectural design, green technology, information technology, pharmaceutical, engineering and
oceanography programs, a medical and two nursing programs and a leading psychiatric research hospital.
Equally important is the impact you could make by locating here: we were one of the first states into the
recession of the last decade and one of the last out. Our emergence in R&D, design and technology
offers great hope for our state economy and could augment the work within the region.

Importantly, our small size is one of our greatest assets – our ability to bring together leaders of business, government, non-profit and institutions on critical issues is remarkably quick and evidenced by the number of letters of support from high-ranking public and private officials. We share a commitment to building this knowledge economy, and a regional patent and trademark office would enable the East Coast states to become stronger participants in America's security and global economy.

Even on a local level, we are playing a sizeable role in putting capital into the hands of our entrepreneurs. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded us – for the first time in its history – a $1 million program to seed entrepreneurs to bring their inventions and designs to market. This program is called the *Innovation Investment Program*, and is funded through our Section 108 HUD funds. We are taking equity shares in higher-risk developments within the bio- and info-tech industries, which garners us a reputation of being 'open for business' within this high-growth sector. With our investment we will be able to launch the next and continuing waves of inventors and scientists: having your offices here will further invite interest and expedite development of these new discoveries, cures and inventions.

For these reasons and more, we would ask you to give 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,

Angel Taveras
Mayor