



Martin O'Malley Governor
Anthony G. Brown Lt. Governor
Dominick E. Murray Secretary
Robert L. Walker Deputy Secretary

January 30, 2014

Mr. Val Kogan, President
Mid-Atlantic Russia Business Council
1760 Market Street, Suite 1100,
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Kogan:

On behalf of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, we look forward to welcoming the Russian participants to the **Russian-American Innovation Technology Week**, March 12-15 2014, and particularly to the **Russian-American Life Sciences Innovation Conference** in Philadelphia on March 13, 2014, both hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Russia Business Council.

Maryland has been ranked Number One in Innovation and Entrepreneurship by the US Chamber of Commerce for the past two years and has had a long relationship with Russia. We have regional partnerships with the Leningrad (20 years) and Nizhny Novgorod Regions (almost 4 years), and Maryland is one of only a few states with an official representative in Russia.

In addition, the University of Maryland at College Park has been collaborating with the Lobachevsky University in Nizhny Novgorod as part of the America-Russia Innovation Corridor and the American Councils' EURECA project. Five Russian companies worked out of the Maryland International Incubator (MI²) this fall and several more companies are expected in the spring. Also, in the field of life sciences, BioMaryland, has signed an agreement with the Puschino Biotechnology Cluster to further develop cooperation in bio-sciences. The State hosted the Bilateral Presidential Commission's Innovation Working Group at the University of Maryland's Bio Park in April of 2013.

The Mid-Atlantic region can be a strong partner for Russian technology companies looking to invest or establish trade relations with companies in the United States. We look forward to working with the Mid-Atlantic Russia Business Council to support these events in furtherance of these twin goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Walker", written over a white background.

Robert L. Walker
Deputy Secretary