



October 13, 2017

Mr. Jeff Bezos  
Chairman and CEO  
Amazon.com Inc.  
410 Terry Avenue North  
Seattle, Washington 98109

Dear Mr. Bezos:

On behalf of the 6.5 million hardworking men and women in Pennsylvania, I write to express my support for Pennsylvania as the perfect location for Amazon's second corporate headquarters. For any business looking to locate or expand, the Keystone State is the perfect place to live, work, and play.

Pennsylvania has the 19th largest economy in the world, and the second most diverse economy in the nation. We are home to everything from corporate headquarters to world-class universities to manufacturing facilities to state-of-the-art R&D labs, and Pennsylvania is a national leader in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) training.

Pennsylvania ranks in the top 10 states for STEM jobs, is the eighth largest state in tech employment, and is fourth nationally in the number of STEM college graduates.

At the Department of Labor & Industry (L&I), we work to develop, expand and execute a well-rounded workforce development system that creates a robust pool of highly-skilled, well-trained employees to support ever-growing STEM-related industries.

We are building gateways to STEM careers through programs such as our Business Education Partnerships. These partnerships coordinate Educator in the Workplace externships, work-based learning, job shadowing, internships, and pre-apprenticeships to foster career awareness in fields with STEM-related occupations.

Pennsylvania is a national leader in apprenticeships, with more than 14,000 participants in registered apprenticeships statewide. Since its creation in 2016, the Apprenticeship and Training Office has fostered the creation of first-in-the-nation apprenticeship programs in scientific research and other STEM occupations, creating new pipelines for young workers. This earn-as-you-learn model has boasted significant growth in nontraditional apprenticeships, such as information technology, computer support specialists, and healthcare, as well as growth in advanced manufacturing and the skilled trades.

L&I has worked to enhance the training capacity at education and training institutions with technology grants. Tech grants provide cutting-edge training equipment to prepare students for careers in STEM-related fields like CNC machining, welding, network administration, and electrical technology, just to name a few.

By working closely with businesses, educational institutions, state agencies and workforce development professionals statewide, we target our training resources to ensure we're meeting the workforce needs of regional employers.

The new generation of high-tech workers want creative and stimulating work, but they also care about their quality of life after they leave the office. Pennsylvania has vibrant metropolitan hubs brimming with artistic and cultural attractions, outstanding schools, millions of acres of tranquil state forests, charming small towns, national historic sites, and championship-level sports teams. And all with a lower cost-of-living than some other locations in America.

Living and working in Pennsylvania is a one-of-a-kind experience and we offer something for everyone – from businesspeople, to families, and visitors. All of this make us a natural fit for Amazon's new headquarters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Gerald Oleksiak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jerry Oleksiak  
Acting Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry