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## Boston: Engine of innovation

For four centuries, the Boston region has been an amazing engine of innovation. Boston statesmen helped birth our nation. Boston engineers and scientists have created life-changing inventions. Boston researchers have overcome disease. Boston companies at the dawn of an industry have found ways to build that industry while still competing.

Those of us who provide professional services in and for Boston depend upon the economic vitality of our region. And Boston's economic vitality depends on continual innovation: We all know our regional strengths — education, health care, finance and science. But our greatest strengths are the adaptability and foresight that nurture invention and innovation.

As we enter the Third Industrial Revolution, we're developing a new wave of innovations — distributed personal computing, green technology, nanotechnology and, of course, biotechnology. The biotech industry here overlaps large and small firms, colleges and universities, hospitals and research institutes, and collaborative industries from law to real estate — hundreds of companies. How did the biotechnology industry get born, get nourished, and thrive? It is important to understand this, because over the next quarter century Massachusetts is going to have to innovate again: We will have to keep nourishing what we have and make sure that the next great idea is properly cultivated, fed and watered here.

One of Boston's most exciting recent innovations is environmental — the Rose Kennedy Greenway, which is opening unprecedented commercial opportunities

in the Financial District and Seaport. From my office I've watched the expressway come down and the seeds of Boston's new garden environments being planted. It's an inspiring sight, since the new Greenway will further enhance Boston as one of this country's most enjoyable cities.

As a region, we do have some issues — all solvable. We must innovate to improve our job creation rate and transportation access to what is actually good and plentiful housing stock. We must streamline conflicting government regulations. And we must do better at recruiting and retaining business and human assets here.

Our CEOs should use innovative, can-do thinking to get more deeply involved with education, youth at risk, transportation, health care, housing and safety. This is not empty altruism: A great state is great for business, and a city that really works, works for everyone.

Boston's extraordinary capacity for commercial and scientific innovation coincides nicely with the Greenway/Seaport's almost unlimited opportunity for enriching our city's lifestyle and prosperity. In both cases, Boston's genius for reinvention is happily at work. And in both cases, our city is the winner.



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