

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 9, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger,

The EB-5 Regional Center Program has been, can be, and should be a powerful tool for the nation's economic recovery. While Congress has rightfully extended this program for the last nineteen appropriation cycles, the program needs reform and a long-term authorization.

Fortunately, after years of debate, industry stakeholders have come together and agree on instituting the necessary integrity reform measures to safeguard the program and enhance its economic capability. They stand ready to work with Congress.

Among the necessary changes to the Regional Center program is integrity reforms. Over time, the Regional Center program suffered setbacks because bad actors abused its opportunities. Industry stakeholders agree with Congressional priorities for increased oversight and additional protections against fraud and abuse including, but not limited to:

1. third party audits;
2. clear information to investors about projects' progress;
3. definitive records illustrating an investor's source of funds; and
4. scrutiny for and protections against threats to national security.

Between 2008 and 2015, as the nation struggled with its last economic downturn, the EB-5 Regional Center program was directly responsible for \$20.6B in economic investments and creating or saving 731,792 jobs.

As the country struggles with the COVID-19 pandemic and an even greater economic crisis, the EB-5 Regional Center program stands ready and is capable of infusing more than \$3 billion into the economy while saving and creating close to 100,000 jobs. However, those numbers are just the tip of the iceberg. With the necessary reforms and a long-term reauthorization, it is possible to see more than \$9 billion in investment and as many as 300,000 jobs saved or created each year after enactment.

Additionally, EB-5 investments will leverage other financing to further projects that otherwise would stay dormant. When domestic financing sources are difficult to secure, as during the 2008 Great Recession, EB-5 funding steps in to meet businesses' capital demand. When capital is scarce, available EB-5 capital is critical to catalyzing and leveraging traditional funding sources.

There are an exponentially growing number of interests and associations asking for this reform and long-term reauthorization. Organizations openly supporting this initiative as something they

feel will help our economic recovery include the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Asian American Hotel Owners Association, the Arizona Commerce Authority, the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation , the Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce, and many others.

This program, devised by Congress as an economic development driver, is a proven success and we need it now more than ever. We request that you include the EB-5 Regional Center program's reform and long-term reauthorization in the next appropriation measure.

Sincerely,

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

French Hill
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

Chris Jacobs
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress