



June 19, 2012

JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
Governor

USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas
Washington Field Office - District 7
MS 2400
US Citizenship and Immigration Services
2675 Prosperity Avenue
Fairfax VA 20598-2400.

Dear Director Mayorkas:

I strongly support the EB-5 program and have authorized the establishment of designated targeted employment areas (TEAs) so that Oregon business ventures and foreign investors can more easily facilitate their transactions.

Establishing EB-5 regional centers is critical to transacting EB-5 investments. The Columbia Willamette EB-5 Regional Center (CWRC) application by Robert McAllister is targeting business areas in a 16 county region stretching from Lane County to the south to the Portland metro area which includes two counties in our neighboring state of Washington.

There are many benefits of creating a 16 county regional center along the Interstate 5 corridor. They include: 1) the ability to draw from the largest population concentration for future employment in targeted industry sectors; 2) the ability to readily capitalize on links between higher education and research and business and industry – four of our major state universities are located in the corridor; and 3) efficient facilitation of investment given that several established TEAs are in the corridor. In addition, Oregon's long tradition of successfully executing public-private partnerships will be helpful to CWRC's initial EB-5 investment, a mixed-use project in Portland that will require significant public-private management of property.

I offer my strong support for CWRC's application and urge the expeditious procession of this request in an effort to bring together investors and business partners and help create more job opportunities in Oregon and southwest Washington.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor

JAK/tm/sm