

AUG - 3 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley Chairman Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

Thank you for your May 24, 2017 letter. Acting Secretary Duke asked that I respond on her behalf.

Responses to your questions regarding the Qiaowai Group, the U.S. Immigration Fund, and the development of a project referenced as One Journal Square are enclosed. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) shares your interest in ensuring that the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program is administered with the greatest integrity.

USCIS has not received any Form I-924, Application for Regional Center Designation Under the Immigrant Investor Program, or Form I-526, Immigrant Petition by Alien Entrepreneur, associated with the One Journal Square project. If we do, as for all other applications and petitions we receive, we will carefully review the submission and supporting documentation for compliance with program requirements to ensure, among other things, that an investor is not guaranteed the return of his or her investment.

Thank you again for your letter and your interest in this important matter. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 272-1940.

Respectfully,

James W. McCament Acting Director

Enclosure

## The Department of Homeland Security's Response to Chairman Grassley's May 24, 2017 Letter

- 1. It appears the information regarding green card and no-risk guarantees violates our immigration laws.
  - a. Does the same information suggest a possible violation of any U.S. securities law?
    - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) defers to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on the above question. We note, however, that USCIS takes any violation of the law very seriously, and we will explore all actions available to us, both specifically and systemically, to ensure the integrity of our immigration system. We remain vigilant for violations of the rules surrounding all of our programs, including EB-5, and when discovered or otherwise brought to our attention, will evaluate fully and take appropriate measures forcefully.
  - b. If the answer is yes, do you plan to investigate, or to take any other action? Please explain.

Please see our previous response.

c. If not, please explain why the possible legal violation does not warrant further investigation or action.

Please see our previous response.

- 2. Qiaowai Group advertises that One Journal Square is its 87th EB-5 program. Has your agency now, or under the Obama administration ever investigated Qiaowai Group, to date?
  - a. If yes, what were the results of such investigation?
  - b. If no, please explain why not.

USCIS does not confirm or deny the existence of non-public investigations.

- 3. Is the Qiaowai Group considered a broker-dealer for EB-5 investment purposes under section 15 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934? If not, are they exempt from the requirement? Please explain the basis for the exemption and answer:
  - a. Does the Qiaowai Group have an office location in the United States?
  - b. Does the Qiaowai Group conduct any business in the U.S.? If yes, please explain.
  - c. Has the Qiaowai Group ever had an equity ownership interest in any U.S. business and/or any EB-5 regional center, business, or project? If yes, please provide detailed information on their ownership interest, including the names of businesses, regional centers, and principals.

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USCIS has reviewed its systems of records and has not identified any equity ownership interest by Qiaowai Group in an EB-5 regional center, business, or project. The request for information about Qiaowai Group's possible equity interest in any U.S. business is beyond the scope of USCIS' records. USCIS defers to the SEC on the remainder of the above questions.

- 4. Is the private company named "the U.S. Immigration Fund" considered a broker-dealer for EB-5 investment purposes under section 15 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934? If not, are they exempt from the requirement? Please explain the basis for the exemption and answer:
  - a. Has your agency now, or under the Obama administration, ever investigated the U.S. Immigration Fund, or any of its owners?
  - b. If the answer to question 4.a. is yes, please provide the basis for investigation, and any conclusions, analysis, or other outcome.

USCIS does not confirm or deny the existence of non-public investigations. USCIS also defers to the SEC on the above questions.

5. Please provide documentation of any investigation into, or complaints you have received regarding, either of the companies mentioned in questions 3, and 4, and/or any owners, officers, board members, or agents of those companies.

USCIS does not confirm or deny the existence of non-public investigations.