



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

November 22, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Grassley:

Thank you for your October 19, 2016 letter. Secretary Johnson asked that I respond on his behalf.

As you know, the Department of Homeland Security shares your strong interest in statutory and regulatory improvements to the EB-5 program.

Reforming and modernizing key areas of the EB-5 program is a priority for the Department, and we are working diligently to strengthen the program and further enhance its integrity through the formal rulemaking process. These regulatory changes are necessary to more accurately reflect existing and future economic realities and improve operational efficiencies to provide stakeholders with a higher level of predictability and transparency in the adjudication process. These changes will also help to continue to enhance program integrity by clarifying key eligibility requirements for program participation and further detailing the processes required for regional center designation and continued participation in the EB-5 program.

More specifically, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has sought feedback from stakeholders on prospective areas for policy or regulatory reform, and is proposing to update the regulations in the following areas: increases to the required investment amounts; revision of the targeted employment area designation process; and clarification of the regional center designation process and indirect job creation methodologies. We are reviewing all available data and stakeholder input in drafting these regulatory changes, with a goal to soon issue this important rule for notice and comment.

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Thank you again for your letter. Those who co-signed your letter will receive separate, identical responses. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 272-1940.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "León Rodríguez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

León Rodríguez
Director