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NORTH DAKOTA

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Bruce Gjovig, CEO
UND Center for Innovation Foundation
4200 James Ray Drive
Grand Forks, ND 58203

RE: Support of EB-5 Regional Center for North Dakota and Northwest Minnesota

Dear Mr. Gjovig:

It is my pleasure to offer my strong support to the University of North Dakota (UND) Center for Innovation Foundation's efforts to secure an EB-5 Regional Center designation for the State of North Dakota and 20 counties in Northwest Minnesota. I understand the EB-5 Regional Center designation would be under the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program through the U.S. Immigration & Citizenship Services (USCIS).

In recent months, several cities throughout North Dakota and Northwest Minnesota have experienced levels of unemployment not seen in decades. North Dakota's largest manufacturer has closed one of its production facilities and the Grand Forks Air Force Base was significantly downsized in the last round of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC). Our rural economy has been stressed by outmigration, and an infusion of new Foreign Direct Investment under the EB-5 program and the resulting increase in jobs would greatly benefit our region. Designating North Dakota and Northwest Minnesota as a "Regional Center" under the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program is a great opportunity to stimulate our regional economy through investment in entrepreneurial ventures.

Again, I am pleased to offer my strong support for the UND Center for Innovation Foundation's efforts to establish an EB-5 Regional Center. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to provide additional support to this effort.

Sincerely,



KENT CONRAD
United States Senate