



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

October 9, 2009

Immigrant Investor Pilot Program
US Dept of Homeland Security
US Citizenship & Immigration Services
Washington, DC 20528

As Governor of North Dakota, I support the UND Center for Innovation Foundation's efforts to secure an EB-5 Regional Center designation for the entire state of North Dakota and 20 counties in northwestern Minnesota under the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program through the U.S. Immigration & Citizenship Services (USICS).

Our state would greatly benefit from foreign investment and new jobs from the EB-5 program. While North Dakota has experienced economic growth in the past two years, the manufacturing sector of our economy is feeling the effects of the national recession. The Grand Forks area has also felt the effects of the recent the BRAC round as the Grand Forks Air Force Base lost its aerial refueling mission.

The EB-5 program will help our state's entrepreneurs and economic developers secure the vital investment for employment growth. The UND Center for Innovation Foundation is well positioned to lead this effort as they have been working with entrepreneurs and angel investors successfully for 25 years.

Through the "Regional Center" designation under the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program, an opportunity exists to allow the EB-5 Regional Center to foster investment in job-creating ventures in the state of North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota thus providing an economic stimulus to the entire region. This is a program ideal for rural states like North Dakota.

We fully support UND Center for Innovation Foundation's efforts to establish an EB-5 Regional Center for the state of North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hoeven".

John Hoeven
Governor

38:53:56