



Community Services Economic Development & Finance Tourism Workforce Development
October 27, 2009

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

Dear Sir/Madam:

As Commissioner of the North Dakota Department of Commerce, I support the University of North Dakota (UND) Center for Innovation Foundation's application to secure an EB-5 Regional Center designation under the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program through the U.S. Immigration & Citizenship Services.

Our state and region has historically grown its business base through investments from within while typically being overlooked as a location for injecting capital by outside private investors and investment groups. This is not due to a lack of quality investment opportunities, but rather, the result of an under-utilization of our natural and human resources and creativity that exists in the state of North Dakota.

With a resurgence of entrepreneurial activity, enhanced efforts to commercialize university research and the strategic delivery of aggressive business development programs within our region, we see tremendous opportunities to diversify and expand our economic base with resources that can be brought forth through an EB-5 Regional Center. An EB-5 Regional Center will provide us with the resources to generate new business development and growth through the attraction of investment dollars into North Dakota and Northwestern Minnesota.

The North Dakota Department of Commerce strongly supports the UND Center for Innovation Foundation's efforts to establish an EB-5 Regional Center. Your approval of this application will result in positive benefits for the State of North Dakota, Northwestern Minnesota and the United States as a whole.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane Goettle". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Shane Goettle
Commissioner

"We lead North Dakota's efforts to attract, retain and expand wealth."