

ERIK PAULSEN  
THIRD DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT



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March 12, 2013

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

Dear Selection Committee:

I am writing in support of the University of North Dakota Center for Innovation Foundation's application to amend the North Dakota / Northwest Minnesota EB-5 Regional Center to include all of Minnesota. I understand that the University of North Dakota Center for Innovation Foundation is collaborating with Bemidji State University, a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to provide EB-5 Regional Center support to the entire state of Minnesota. The EB-5 Regional Center designation would be under the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program through the U.S. Immigration & Citizenship Services (USCIS).

Through the amendment, an opportunity exists to allow the EB-5 Regional Center to foster investment in job-creating ventures throughout the state of Minnesota thus providing an economic stimulus to the entire state. Minnesota's economy has been stressed, and an infusion of new Foreign Direct Investment under the EB-5 program and the resulting increase in jobs would greatly benefit our state. As our region faces economic challenges, it is imperative that the government and the private sector work together toward stimulating the local economy and bringing jobs to the unemployed and underemployed.

The University of North Dakota Center for Innovation Foundation in collaboration with Bemidji State University is well positioned to lead this effort.

Designating North Dakota and all of Minnesota as a "Regional Center" under the Immigration Investor Pilot Program is a great opportunity to stimulate our state's economy through investment in entrepreneurial ventures.

I fully support University of North Dakota Center for Innovation Foundation's efforts to amend its designation to include all of Minnesota in collaboration with Bemidji State University, and I look forward to working with you to make this effort a reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erik Paulsen', with a stylized, cursive script.

Erik Paulsen  
Member of Congress

EP/mc