

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

March 4, 2013

Karen White
Executive Director
Manufacturing and Applied Engineering ATE Regional Center of Excellence
Bemidji State University
1500 Birchmont Drive NE., #34
Bemidji, MN 56601-2699

Dear Ms. White:

I am pleased to support 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.

I am thrilled that the amendment would create an opportunity for 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 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 state. As the state 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.

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.

If you need additional information, please contact Valerie Gravseth at 218-230-9487 or by email at valerie_gravseth@franken.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Al Franken
United States Senator