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June 15, 2011

Mr. Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
111 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20529-2260

Dear Mr. Mayorkas:

I am writing on behalf of the 1.1 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) to support the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) proposals to enhance the administration of the USCIS EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program.

The National Association of REALTORS® is America's largest trade association, including NAR's five commercial real estate institutes and its societies and councils. REALTORS® are involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries and belong to one or more of some 1,400 local associations or boards, and 54 state and territory associations of REALTORS®

The USCIS proposals are intended to accelerate its processing of I-924 Regional Center applications for commercial enterprises that will create a minimum of 10 full-time jobs. In addition, USCIS will offer applicants the option to request the fee-based Premium Processing Service, which offers 15-day turnaround and enhanced customer service. USCIS also proposes to create specialized intake teams to handle the review of the application and communicate directly with applicants to streamline the resolution of issues, questions or needs related to their applications. Lastly, the USCIS proposes to create an expert Decision Board to render decisions regarding I-924 Regional Center applications.

NAR supports the proposed changes to USCIS's processing of I-924 applications. Changes that streamline the immigration process to promote economic growth and job creation will support stable, prosperous, thriving and secure communities. NAR applauds the efforts by USCIS to promote efficiency and predictability for applicants. Continued review of the program's processes is important to increase the job-creation potential of the EB-5 program.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. If we can provide any additional information or clarify any of our concerns, please contact Charlie Dawson, NAR's Associate Policy Representative, at cdawson@realtors.org or 202.383.7522.

Sincerely,

Ron Phipps, ABR, CRS, GRI, GREEN, e-PRO, SFR
2011 President, National Association of REALTORS®



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