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THIRD DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

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July 10, 2013

Alejandro Mayorkas, Director
United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
20 Massachusetts Avenue, #3300
Washington, DC 20529-2099

Dear Director Mayorkas:

I am writing to you in support of the I-924 application submitted by International Creative Capital ("ICC") to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to become an EB-5 Regional Center.

At a time when our country is experiencing steep financial challenges and the business community, particularly small businesses, continues to experience challenges with access to capital, this program can be a tremendous benefit to the economic vitality of our state. At present, Minnesota is one of a handful of states that does not have any EB-5 projects or a regional center.

Unique to ICC's business model is its focus on social impact investment in targeted employment areas (TEA's). Several of ICC's projects are in North Minneapolis communities that have experienced substantial disinvestment and are economically disadvantaged. Minneapolis has the unfortunate distinction of having the highest racial unemployment disparity in the United States. A 2011 report by the Economic Policy Institute found the rate of unemployed African Americans in Minneapolis is three times that of whites.

Changing the economic landscape for these disadvantaged neighborhoods requires a bevy of economic development strategies and funding streams. An EB-5 Regional Center can play a pivotal role in leveraging capital, providing the necessary enticements to the business community to expand facilities and create jobs in these neighborhoods.

Creating an EB-5 Regional Center would provide a new and powerful tool to better position our state's business community amidst an ever competitive global economy.

Please give this application your full consideration. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "E" and a cursive "rik".

Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress

EP:mc