

Date: 2014-08-01 15:36:57 -0400
To: "Pendle, David (Judiciary-Dem)" <David_Pendle@judiciary-dem.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: OLA Assistance Requested: I-526 past processing date, WAC1390513113
CC: Johannes von Trapp <jvt@trappfamily.com>, Walter Frame <wf@trappfamily.com>, Sam von Trapp <svt@trappfamily.com>, "Moulton, Pat" <Pat.Moulton@state.vt.us>, "Fu, Becky" <Becky.Fu@state.vt.us>, "Kessler, John" <John.Kessler@state.vt.us>, "Gosselin, Lisa" <Lisa.Gosselin@state.vt.us>, "Sussman, Susan (Leahy)" <Susan_Sussman@leahy.senate.gov>, "Saunders, Chris (Leahy)" <Chris_Saunders@leahy.senate.gov>
From: "Raymond, Brent" <Brent.Raymond@state.vt.us>

David,

Thank you, Senator Leahy and the entire Leahy team. Have a good weekend.

Best,

Brent

Brent Raymond | Executive Director of International Trade & Foreign Investment
Vermont Global Trade Partnership

Vermont EB-5 Regional Center
1 National Life Dr, Davis Bldg, 6th Floor | Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
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From: Pendle, David (Judiciary-Dem) [mailto:David_Pendle@judiciary-dem.senate.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2014 3:35 PM
To: Raymond, Brent
Cc: Johannes von Trapp; Walter Frame; Sam von Trapp; Moulton, Pat; Fu, Becky; Kessler, John; Gosselin, Lisa; Sussman, Susan (Leahy); Saunders, Chris (Leahy)
Subject: RE: OLA Assistance Requested: I-526 past processing date, WAC1390513113

Brent,

Chairman Leahy sent USCIS Director Rodriguez a letter requesting the average processing time for a project's initial Form I-526 petition. We'll let you know as soon as we have a response. Thanks again.

David H. Pendle, Counsel

Senate Judiciary Committee

Sen. Patrick Leahy, Chairman

(202) 224-0739

From: Raymond, Brent [<mailto:Brent.Raymond@state.vt.us>]
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2014 1:59 AM
To: Sussman, Susan (Leahy); Pendle, David (Judiciary-Dem); Saunders, Chris (Leahy)
Cc: Johannes von Trapp; Walter Frame; Sam von Trapp; Moulton, Pat; Fu, Becky; Kessler, John; Gosselin, Lisa
Subject: Fwd: OLA Assistance Requested: I-526 past processing date, WAC1390513113

Susan, David and Chris,

Is it possible for Senator Leahy to make an official inquiry into how long the average approval time for the initial (first) I-526 actually is? The 13.2 month processing time is seriously misleading. That the Trapp project hasn't even been assigned an adjudicator after more than 15 months is an indication of how misleading it is.

Other regional centers are marketing that they have been assured "fast track I-526 approval" because their project is a matter of national security. The Louisiana RC project is one that comes to mind. I've personally heard a rep of the project make the statement publicly, and they are actively marketing this.

Other RCs are targeting and poaching VT EB-5 RC project's investors by stating the project is likely going to be denied since they haven't received an approval within the USCIS' posted average marketing time. At least if we know the true initial I-526 processing time we can defend our projects from less ethical RCs who are using USCIS' stated data to try and poach investors.

The VT Digger article is reverberating in China. Competing RCs are using it against us and our projects. The article was far from fair or well investigated. Already, Investors are pulling out of projects they signed up for and agents are canceling seminars for non Jay Peak projects.

Knowing the actual 1st I-526 processing average would be of great help in defending our projects. It's something that should already be being tracked anyways to provide better transparency and ensure proper management of the program.

Kind regards,

Brent

Brent Raymond | Executive Director of International Trade & Foreign Investment

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