

Date: 2014-02-20 21:37:08 -0500
To: Saunders, Chris (Leahy)
Subject: Re: ANC Bio Investor
From: "Raymond, Brent" <MAILER-DAEMON>

Thx Chris,

The pallet co. hasn't totally ruled us out but the 20 month delay is of grave concern and causing them to reconsider NJ and TX who we were/are competing against.

I wanted to clarify.

Best,
Brent

Brent Raymond | Executive Director of International Trade & Foreign Investment
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Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 20, 2014, at 5:24 PM, "Saunders, Chris (Leahy)" <Chris_Saunders@leahy.senate.gov> wrote:

Brent, thanks for this. We've been talking actively with USCIS on these issues and hopefully we'll have some positive news soon. The Senator will also have Leon Rodriguez before the Committee for a confirmation hearing where he'll certainly be publicly pushing on the delays.

I appreciate the update on the pallet folks, we met with them in DC and VT, disappointing that they're focusing elsewhere.

Talk soon, Chris

From: Raymond, Brent [<mailto:Brent.Raymond@state.vt.us>]
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 1:21 PM
To: Saunders, Chris (Leahy)
Subject: Re: ANC Bio Investor

Hi Chris,

Confirmed.

I've also followed up with her to ensure she was satisfied that her money had been returned via bank wiring instructions and asked if she'd like to share any other information. I've not received a reply.

As we discussed, USCIS taking 9, 12, 15, (20 months average nationally) to review an I-526 and then send an RFE to an investor has already had a very negative impact on the AnC Bio project. Thus far it's caused \$1.5MM to be pulled out.

Trapp Family Lodge is hitting the 9 month mark for their 1st I-526 submission without any response (positive or negative) to I-526 investors/petitioners. This is significantly impacting their ability to attract further investors. More conservative investors and their agents prefer to wait until an I-526 has been approved before they invest.

The trickle down affect is that construction contracts are delayed, less job creation is able to be created in a timely manner (or at all) and projects' business plans are negatively impacted because they aren't able to move forward based upon the biz plan timeline. As you know, VT has a short construction season. A material change in a biz plan caused by delayed construction will result in USCIS I-829 review complications and delays at the I-829 stage.

We appreciate anything Senator Leahy may do to assist in helping USCIS place more priority on timely review (i.e. less than 7 months I-526 processing time). 9, 12, 15 or more months processing times impair business viability of currently approved projects.

Just as damaging, it significant impacts Vermont's efforts to recruit international companies to establish manufacturing, distribution and other jobs that pay employees quality livable wages.

I'd mentioned a Turkish company building new factories in Germany and Saudi Arabia that I'd recruited using the EB-5 program. With such anticipated delays, they are now revisiting New Jersey and Texas as potentially more viable options because of their tax incentives and other offers Vermont cannot and does not offer. This is an anticipated \$20 plus million project hiring 60 plus direct manufacturing and North American headquarters executive employees. The indirect job creation is considerable.

Successful recruiting of this multi- national via EB-5 was to be the model to attract other green cutting edge international manufacturers and companies. It dovetails with the new NEK foreign trade zone and BT 'a green business leadership marketing. It's now very much at risk.

As always, I can't thank Senator Leahy and staff for his leadership in always supporting responsible economic development initiatives. Please let me know if there is any further information I may provide regarding this critical matter.

Kind regards,

Brent

Brent Raymond | Executive Director of International Trade & Foreign Investment

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On Feb 20, 2014, at 10:14 AM, "Saunders, Chris (Leahy)" <Chris_Saunders@leahy.senate.gov> wrote:

Hi Brent, thanks for taking time to chat yesterday. The name of the woman that contacted us is Xiangjun Cao. Looks like she initially emailed us on February 11th, but her message took a few days to work its way through our system. If you could confirm that this is the woman you've spoken to and advised the folks at Jay/ANC to proactively respond to, that would be terrific.

Thanks again,

Chris Saunders

Field Representative

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