



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

Date: MAY 02 2011

Tobin Butcher  
C/O BW Law Ltd.  
1001 Fourth Avenue, Suite 4400  
Seattle, Washington 98154

Application: Request for Designation as a Regional Center  
Applicant(s): Tobin Butcher

Re: Farm for America Regional Center  
RCW1031910018/(formerly W09001790)

Pursuant to Section 610 of the Appropriations Act of 1993, on April 23, 2010, Tobin Butcher submitted a proposal seeking approval and designation by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of the Farm for America Regional Center.

USCIS hereby designates Farm for America Regional Center as a Regional Center within the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program and approves the request as described below:

**FOCUS OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITY:**

As depicted in the economic model, the general proposal, business plan and associated economic analysis, the Regional Center will engage in the following economic activities: to purchase and develop agricultural property.

The Regional Center shall focus on offering EB-5 compliant capital investment opportunities into new commercial enterprises or a mix of commercial enterprises in the following target industry economic clusters:

1. NAICS 111900 Other Farming (Viticulture)
2. NAICS 111200 Vegetable Farming

If any investment opportunities arise that are beyond the scope of the approved industry clusters, then an amendment would be required to add that cluster.

### **GEOGRAPHIC AREA:**

The Farm for America Regional Center shall have a geographic scope to include the Washington Counties of Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Franklin, Klickitat, Okanogan, Walla Walla and Yakima.

The geographic focus of this area may contain some High Unemployment Targeted Employment Areas (TEAs) as designated by the State of Washington and rural TEAs, as defined in 8 CFR 204.6(e). Therefore, the minimum capital investment threshold for any individual immigrant investment into an approved commercial enterprise throughout the Regional Center shall be not less than \$500,000, if the investment target is located within a TEA or \$1,000,000 if it is located outside of a TEA. No debt arrangement will be acceptable unless it is secured by assets owned by the alien entrepreneur. A full capital investment must be made and placed at risk.

For any alien requesting the reduced threshold of \$500,000 based upon an investment in a Targeted Employment area, the alien must establish at the time of filing of the I-526 petition that either the investment will be made in a TEA designated area or was in a TEA designated area at the time of the alien's initial investment into the enterprise.

### **EMPLOYMENT CREATION**

The econometric model is the Washington State Input-Output Model. Immigrant investors who file petitions for capital investments in new commercial enterprises located within and affiliated with the Regional Center area must fulfill all of the requirements set forth in INA 203(b)(5), 8 CFR 204.6, and 8 CFR 216.6, except that the petition need not show that the new commercial enterprises created ten new jobs directly as a result of the immigrant investor's investment. The determination whether the alien investor has met the job creation requirements will be established by a review of the required initial evidence at 8 CFR 204.6(j) and 8 CFR 216.6(a)(4) for the Form I-526 and Form I-829 petitions, respectively. The capital investment and job creation activities outlined in the individual petitions must fall within the bounds of the final economic analysis that is contained as part of the approved Regional Center proposal and its indirect job creation model and multipliers contained within the final approved Regional Center application package. The immigrant investor must show at the time of removal of conditions that they performed the activities described in Form I-526 petition, and the activities must be based on the approved regional center methodology for demonstrating job creation.

In addition, where job creation or preservation of existing jobs is claimed based on a multiplier rooted in underlying new "direct jobs", the immigrant investor's individual I-526 petition affiliated with your Regional Center, should include as supporting evidence:

- A comprehensive detailed business plan with supporting financial, marketing and related data and analysis providing a reasonable basis for projecting creation of any new direct jobs for "qualifying employees" to be achieved/realized within two years pursuant to 8 CFR 204.6(j)(4)(B).

An alien investor's I-829 petition to remove the conditions which was based on an I-526 petition approval that involved the creation of new direct jobs or the creation of new indirect jobs based on job creation inputs (direct wages paid to employees-\$1,330,000, development costs and operational costs-\$5,220,000, and the value of crop production-\$4,800,000) needs to be properly supported by such evidence. To support the full number of direct and indirect new jobs being claimed in connection with removal of conditions, the petition

will need to be supported by probative evidence. Such evidence may include the direct wages paid to employees in the form of W-2s, State employment records and quarterly wage reports, development costs and production costs (excluding land acquisition), and the value of annual crop production.

**Additional Guidelines for individual Immigrant Investors Visa Petition (I-526)**

Each individual petition, in order to demonstrate that it is associated with the Regional Center, in conjunction with addressing all the requirements for an individual immigrant investor petition, shall also contain as supporting evidence relating to this Regional Center designation, the following:

1. A copy of this letter, the Regional Center approval and designation.
2. A copy of the USCIS approved Regional Center narrative proposal and business plan.
3. A copy of the job creation methodology required in 8 CFR 204.6(j)(4)(iii), as contained in the final Regional Center economic analysis which has been approved by USCIS, which reflects that investment by an individual immigrant investor will create not fewer than ten (10) full-time employment positions, either directly or indirectly, per immigrant investor.
4. A legally executed copy of the USCIS approved documents:
  - a. Partnership Agreement
  - b. Subscription Agreement
  - c. Certificate of Formation

Version dated 04/20/2010  
Version dated 04/20/2010  
Version dated 09/23/2008

**DESIGNEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES INHERENT IN CONDUCT OF THE REGIONAL CENTER:**

The law, as reflected in the regulations at 8 CFR 204.6(m)(6), requires that an approved Regional Center in order to maintain the validity of its approval and designation must continue to meet the statutory requirements of the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program by serving the purpose of promoting economic growth, including increased export sales (where applicable), improved regional productivity, job creation, and increased domestic capital investment. Therefore, in order for USCIS to determine whether your Regional Center is in compliance with the above cited regulation, and in order to continue to operate as a USCIS approved and designated Regional Center, your administration, oversight, and management of your Regional Center shall be such as to monitor all investment activities under the sponsorship of your Regional Center and to maintain records, data and information in order to provide the information required on the Form I-924A supplement. Form I-924A, Supplement to Form I-924 is available in the "Forms" section on the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

Effective November 23, 2010, the failure to timely file a Form I-924A Supplement for each fiscal year in which the regional center has been designated for participation in the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program will result in the issuance of an intent to terminate the participation of the regional center in the Pilot Program, which may ultimately result in the termination of the approval and designation of the regional center.

Note: The requirement for the filing of Form I-924A Supplement commences in fiscal year 2011. Each regional center that remains designated for participation in the pilot program as of September 30, 2011 must submit the Form I-924A Supplement with the required supporting documentation on or before December 29, 2011.

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If you have any questions concerning the Regional Center approval and designation under the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program, please contact the USCIS by Email at [USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@dhs.gov](mailto:USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Rosemary Langley Melville  
Director  
California Service Center