

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 19, 2018

The Honorable L. Francis Cissna
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
20 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20529-2099

Dear Director Cissna,

We are writing to ask you to reinstate the EB-5 Regional Center for the New England Center for Business Development (NECBD) in Millinocket, Maine. The closure of the Great Northern Paper Company mill in Millinocket in 2008 was an economic catastrophe for the town, the people, and the entire Katahdin region. When the mill stacks came down in 2014, many felt that the fate of the community was sealed. Soon afterwards, *Our Katahdin* formed, bringing hope and determination to turn things around.

Our Katahdin is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to community and (regional) economic development in northern Maine. In January 2017, *Our Katahdin* purchased the 1400-acre shuttered paper mill site owned by Great Northern Paper Company in Millinocket. (At the same time,) *Our Katahdin* also purchased the New England Center for Business Development (NECBD) to use its EB-5 Regional Center as a catalyst for foreign investment in the abandoned paper mill site. Since taking ownership of NECBD, *Our Katahdin* has been working with America EB-5 Visa, an established EB-5 broker-dealer in New York City, to maximize the EB-5 Regional Center's potential in attracting investors.

The EB-5 Regional Center is an essential component of *Our Katahdin*'s plan to redevelop the mill site and is already proving invaluable in that effort. At present, there are four companies that are committed to expanding their businesses in the former mill site, and they have provided letters to USCIS affirming that the EB-5 program is a critical tool in their capital attraction plan.

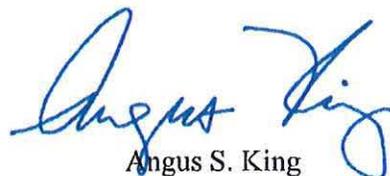
Our Katahdin and NECBD have been working diligently to return economic growth and vitality to this deteriorating area of Maine, but it has been very challenging. It is imperative that the NECBD have more time to use the EB-5 Regional Center as an economic tool, and we are asking you to consider reinstating NECBD's EB-5 status.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this request, consistent with applicable rules and regulations. Please contact Carol Woodcock at (207) 945-0417 (Collins) or Adam Lachman, at (202) 224-5344 (King) should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King
United States Senator



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

January 10, 2019

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

Thank you for your November 19, 2018 letter requesting that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) consider reinstating the designation of New England Center for Business Development (New England Center), located in Millinocket, Maine, as a regional center under the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program. USCIS is committed to administering the Immigrant Investor Program in a fair and efficient manner while protecting Americans, securing the homeland, and honoring our values.

Generally, the proper method to request reconsideration of a decision made by USCIS is for the applicant or petitioner to file a Form I-290B, Notice of Motion or Appeal. Information regarding the motion and appeal process can be found on the USCIS website at <https://www.uscis.gov/i-290b>.

The publicly available information about the EB-5 program on the USCIS website may be useful to you. Specifically, the USCIS Policy Manual, Volume 6, Part G, available online at <https://www.uscis.gov/policymanual/HTML/PolicyManual-Volume6-PartG.html>, provides information about Regional Center Designation, Reporting, Amendments, and Termination.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) protocols govern the manner and circumstances under which DHS and USCIS employees involved in the EB-5 program may communicate with stakeholders regarding specific EB-5 matters. Under the EB-5 protocols, substantive communications relating to specific EB-5 matters require memorialization and filing in the EB-5 case file. Accordingly, your November 19, 2018 letter will be memorialized and placed in the relevant case file. For more information, the protocols may be accessed online by visiting www.uscis.gov/eb-5 and selecting the EB-5 Resources link.

Again, thank you for your letter and interest in this important issue. Senator King, who co-signed your letter, will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 272-1940.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LFC", written over a light blue horizontal line.

L. Francis Cissna
Director