



Larry Hogan | Governor
Boyd Rutherford | Lt. Governor
R. Michael Gill | Secretary of Commerce
Benjamin H. Wu | Deputy Secretary of Commerce

May 11, 2016

Mr. Leon Rodriguez, Director
United States Citizenship and Immigration Service
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20529

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

This letter is in response to a request from Capitol Area Regional Center Job Fund LLC, for the Artist's Row project at 3807 & 4100 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722, to ascertain whether or not U.S. Census Tract 8046 with contiguous tracts 8044, 8043, 8031, 8030.01, 8029.01, 8028.04, 8028.05, 8030.02, 8033, 8034.01 within Prince George's County, MD can be designated as a "targeted employment area" ("TEA"), under section 203(b)(5) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act ("the Act"), 8 U.S.C. Section 1153(b)(5). The party noted above seeks clarification of the matter as it pertains to a potential U.S. EB-5 Visa-affiliated project which is under consideration. Pertinent to this and similar requests, and as within Federal guidelines associated with EB-5 programming, the Governor of Maryland has granted the Maryland Department of Commerce the authority to designate TEAs.

Using data for the most recent year for which such information is available, 2015, including from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey and Maryland Career and Workforce Information Office, for both the U.S. national and the U.S. Census Tract unemployment rates, it has been determined by Commerce that TEA criteria are met.

- The U.S. national unemployment rate for the 2015 period stands at 5.3%
- The unemployment rate of U.S. Census Tract 8046 and above contiguous tracts for the period stands at 8.0% using the "census share method," adjusted to 2015.

The Census Tract unemployment rate is in excess of 150% of the national unemployment rate. Therefore, as under the Act, the jurisdiction outlined above is hereby definitively designated and confirmed as a TEA.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached by e-mail at signe.pringle@maryland.gov or by phone at 1-410-767-3542.

Sincerely,

Signe Pringle
Managing Director
Office of International Investment and Trade

cc: Global Capital Markets Advisors LLC, Manager