

PROPOSALS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION RE: RUSSIAN IMMIGRATION SANCTIONS

February 23, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the situation in Russia deteriorates and economic problems in the country become more and more severe, the question for the region's future becomes more and more urgent. President Putin sees his middle class, the most economically active and technologically savvy circles of society, as potential traitors. The only remnants of the US "reset" policy – westernized entrepreneurs – fall under even bigger pressure.

These two groups carry with them the talent and future of Russia and yet they are marginalized by a repressive regime that sees them more as a threat than the value they represent. This value is portable and can be brought to the U.S. in the form of a "brain gain" with a few swift and modest changes to U.S. immigration policy.

Smart application and selective relaxation of our immigration regulations could play a significant role in preserving Russia's most successful businessmen, academics and entrepreneurs in the US. Attracting them to move to the United States serves multiple purposes, including immediate benefits for the U.S. domestic economy.

Immigration exceptions have traditionally been created for nationals from many other countries. The specific issues and reasons vary, but, ultimately, the end results inure to the benefit and interests of the US.

We submit the following revisions for Russian nationals for your immediate consideration:

EB-5 Program

Reduce the required investment amount from \$500,000 to \$250,000 for TEA Investments and from \$1,000,000 to \$500,000 for non-TEA investments.

E2 Investor

Include Russian Nationals on the list of approved countries.

L1

For businessmen interested in opening new offices in the US, change the requirement so that the foreign entity simply be established for two years, rather than the current requirement that business between the foreign and US affiliate/subsidiary/parent must continue ongoing.

H1B

Streamline adjudication guidelines, similar to TN1, and/or establish a new category for Russian nationals (similar to Australia's E3) and/or establish a separate quota count (similar to Singapore & Chile).

These changes, properly effectuated, have the compound potential to protect the pro-western entrepreneurial and academic base of Russia that President Putin seeks to destroy, to multiply the effect of already imposed sanctions, and to encourage investment and job creation in the US.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter of growing concern.

Very truly yours,

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