

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Jeff Stone
Supervisor Marion Ashley

SUBMITTAL DATE:
August 12, 2013

SUBJECT: Request to the Congress of the United States to Hold Hearings in the Judiciary Committee

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors directs:

1. That the County Executive Officer respectfully request that the Judiciary Committee of the Congress of the United States of America call for hearings into the conduct of the United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS), as it relates to EB-5 Regional Centers;
2. That the County Executive Officer authorize and direct the Washington, D.C. based county lobby team be utilized to inform our congressional delegation and congressional leadership of the committees with jurisdiction and oversight of USCIS that the Board of Supervisors respectfully calls for Judiciary Committee hearings as specified in paragraph 1; and
3. That the County Executive Officer authorize, if necessary, official travel to Washington, D.C. for the purpose of working with the county's congressional delegation and Senators to facilitate these hearings and/or to testify as needed.

BACKGROUND: EB-5 Regional Centers play a key role in our economic development efforts. Fully 1/5th of all EB-5 Regional Centers in the United States are located in Riverside County. It has been the official policy of this body to welcome and support EB-5 investment and regional centers in the County since 2009. This body led the effort in California to reauthorize EB-5 programs in the Congress of the United States and strongly supports the job creation and investments that have been made through the EB-5 Regional Centers. Most recently, numerous EB-5 Regional Centers have expressed concerns to the Commissioner of Foreign Trade that USCIS delays in review and approval of applications are halting progress in job creation and investment in the County of Riverside, the region, the state, and nationally. The Chairman of the Judiciary Committee has expressed interest in holding official hearings to determine why USCIS has tripled the time it takes for review and approval of EB-5 center cases. EB-5 Regional Centers, their owners, and investors have contributed greatly to the County and her cities during the Great Recession and have been a major source of job creation and investment. Staff may also, at its discretion, advise the 28 cities in our county, regional government bodies, chambers of commerce, and economic development advocacy groups of the boards position.

Jeff Stone, County Supervisor
Third District

Marion Ashley, County Supervisor
Fifth District