## Texas Investment Regional Center

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## Matching EB-5 Capital with Growth Projects in Texas

October 17, 2011

Floyd Akers
Interim Economic Development Director
Pflugerville Community Development Corporation
100 East Main Street
Pflugerville, TX 78691

Dear Mr. Akers:

Summarizing our discussions, we are in the process of forming and seeking approval of an EB-5 Regional Center aimed at raising foreign capital for direct investment and job creation in and around Pflugerville.

EB-5 Regional Centers are programs approved by USCIS (US Citizenship & Immigration) under which a prospective immigrant may invest \$1MM in a US business which creates at least 10 direct jobs, in exchange for an immigrant visa for himself and his immediate family. After immigration the immigrant may live and work anywhere in the U.S. Under the Regional Center program, however, the immigrant need only invest \$500k and must create 10 jobs *directly and indirectly* in a "TEA" (Targeted Employment Area). A typical Regional Center investment project would combine a number of prospective immigrants to raise more capital for a given project: for example 20 immigrant investors pooling together \$10MM and creating 200 jobs directly and/or indirectly.

A regional center finds the immigrant investors (typically from China and South Korea), finds a suitable project which when professionally or entrepreneurially managed is likely to succeed and is likely to create the necessary jobs. The center then organizes and structures the investment in a manner consistent with securities laws and good business practices, and then executes, also facilitating the immigration of the investors. For the investors to receive permanent Green Cards, the center must show that the investment has been made and that the jobs have indeed been created in the two year period after starting. The investors typically leave their funds in the investment for a period of five to seven years at a minimum.

Because of the investor pooling and the counting of indirect jobs created, USCIS exercises a great deal of superintendence over regional centers and their programs. In addition to an EB-5 compliant business plan for each investment project, the regional center must submit an economic study by a competent economist, using a recognized economic model, to estimate indirect job creation.

The Texas Investment Regional Center will be shortly be formed as a Texas LLC and will seek regional center designation to execute a number of multi-million dollar investments in Central Texas, including Pflugerville. At the moment, we are considering bringing EB-5 investment to the Complete Energy Systems project. We are also studying the proposed start-up incubator to see if it can qualify under the EB-5 rules.

We are also putting together an advisory board of prominent citizens to vet and recommend approval of prospective investments.

We would like help from the city of Pflugerville in two areas:

- a. Funding part of the economic study cost up to \$10,000.
- b. Assistance in getting Texas to designate Pflugerville as a TEA.

Thank you for your assistance and your interest in this project.

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Yours truly,

Dandan Zou Principal