

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
*Immigrant Investor Program*  
131 M Street, NE, Mailstop 2235  
Washington, DC 20529



**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

**Date:** October 21, 2024

c/o Mr. J Bruce Ricciuti  
Birch Maryland GP LLC  
150 East Palmetto Park Road  
Suite 800  
Boca Raton, FL 33432

**Application:** Form I-956F  
Application for Approval of an Investment in a Commercial Enterprise

**Applicant(s):** Birch Maryland GP LLC  
RC2200000497

**Re:** Initial I-956F, Application for Approval of an Investment in a Commercial Enterprise  
INF2460009303

On April 2, 2024, Birch Maryland GP LLC ("the Regional Center") filed a Form I-956F to request an Initial I-956F, Application for Approval of an Investment in a Commercial Enterprise in accordance with section 203(b)(5)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA"). The Regional Center was initially approved for designation in the Regional Center Program ("the Program")<sup>1</sup> on January 16, 2014.

Specifically, the Form I-956F requests the following:

- Determination of EB-5 compliance for initial I-956F, Application for Approval of an Investment in a Commercial Enterprise.

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<sup>1</sup> INA § 203(b)(5)(E) and its predecessor at Sec. 610 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1993, Pub. L. 102-395 (repealed by the EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022, Div. BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, Pub. L. No. 117-103).

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Effective as of the date of this notice, and as discussed further below, USCIS approves the Regional Center's request.

**I. Determination of EB-5 Compliance for an initial I-956F, Application for Approval of an Investment in a Commercial Enterprise**

Through this Form I-956F and the documents submitted, the Regional Center requests determination of EB-5 compliance for an initial I-956F, Application for Approval of an Investment in a Commercial Enterprise. The Regional Center presented evidence asserting that 156 investors will invest \$124.8 million total EB-5 capital into Birch Tradepoint Fund II, LP – the new commercial enterprise (NCE). The NCE will lend the entire amount to Tradepoint Atlantic, LLC, the job creating entity (JCE). The JCE intends to build and operate Phase II, years 2024 - 2029, of the redevelopment of the former Bethlehem Steel site at Sparrows Point into a mixed-use marine port and logistics facility in Baltimore, Maryland.

After review of the documents submitted in connection with this request, USCIS has determined that the Regional Center has demonstrated that the initial I-956F, Application for Approval of an Investment in a Commercial Enterprise complies with EB-5 requirements.

The Regional Center asserts construction activity will last longer than 2 years. Therefore, USCIS approves the Form I-956F based on evidence submitted indicating that the investment from EB-5 petitioners will create sufficient direct jobs and indirect/induced jobs in accordance with INA § 203(b)(5)(E)(iv)(I) to support 156 EB-5 investors<sup>2</sup>.

USCIS also approves the Regional Center's assertion that the NCE is principally doing business within a high unemployment area.

The designation of the proposed area as a high unemployment area is valid until two years from the filing date of this I-956F<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> INA § 203(b)(5)(E)(iv)(I) permits aliens seeking admission to satisfy only up to 90 percent of the job creation requirement with jobs that are estimated to be created indirectly through investment. An employee of the new commercial enterprise or job-creating entity may be considered to hold a job that has been directly created. If the jobs estimated to be created are created by construction activity lasting less than 2 years, Applicants may satisfy only up to 75 percent of the job creation requirement with jobs that are estimated to be created indirectly through investment. INA § 203(b)(5)(E)(iv)(II). If the number of direct jobs estimated to be created has been determined by an economically and statistically valid methodology, and such direct jobs are created by construction activity lasting less than 2 years, the number of such jobs that may be considered direct jobs for purposes of clause (iv) shall be calculated by multiplying the total number of such jobs estimated to be created by the fraction of the 2-year period that the construction activity lasts. INA § 203(b)(5)(E)(v)(II)(cc).

<sup>3</sup> An immigrant investor who has invested the required amount of capital in a targeted employment area designated as a high unemployment area during the period in which the area is designated will not be required to increase the amount of investment due to the expiration of the designation.

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The approval of an I-956F shall be binding for purposes of the adjudication of subsequent Forms I-526E, Immigrant Petition by Regional Center Investor, filed by immigrants investing in the same offering described in this I-956F application, and of petitions by the same immigrants filed under INA § 216A unless—

- (I) the applicant engaged in fraud, misrepresentation, or criminal misuse;
- (II) such approval would threaten public safety or national security;
- (III) there has been a material change that affects eligibility;
- (IV) the discovery of other evidence affecting program eligibility was not disclosed by the applicant during the adjudication process; or
- (V) the previous adjudication involved a material mistake of law or fact.

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If the Regional Center has any questions concerning its designation under the Immigrant Investor Program, please contact the USCIS by email at:

[USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@uscis.dhs.gov)

Sincerely,



Alissa L. Emmel  
Chief Immigrant Investor Program

cc: Carolyn Lee, Esq.  
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