Boston Redevelopment Authority

Boston's Planning & Economic Development Office

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

One City Hall Square Boston, MA 02201-1007 Tel 617-722-4300 Fax 617-248-1937

July 8, 2014

Mr. Nicholas Colucci Director, EB-5 Program U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services 20 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington D.C. 20529

Re:

The Point Project, 200 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA EB-5 Jobs for Massachusetts, Inc. Regional Center and Birch Capital LLC

Dear Mr. Colucci:

We write to express our strong support for the The Point project in the Massachusetts Regional Center. It is our understanding, through the EB-5 Pilot Program, Birch Capital, LLC, in affiliation with the existing EB-5 Jobs for Massachusetts Inc. Regional Center, intends to raise foreign investment capital for the construction of a mixed-use building that will include residences and retail space.

The new project will sit on the gateway parcel into the Fenway neighborhood of Boston, Massachusetts. The project will contain ground floor active uses that are intended to house retail, restaurant, and café space, which will activate the street scape at the entrance to the neighborhood. It will also provide approximately 300 housing units in a city that has a severe housing shortage and a neighborhood that desperately needs new housing stock.

The Fenway neighborhood is home to Fenway Park and the Boston Red Sox. For years this neighborhood was active only during the 81 home games of the Boston Red Sox, however it lies between the Back Bay and the Longwood Medical Area, making it a critical part of connecting these important neighborhoods and linking the city together.

The Longwood Medical Area is one of the nation's leading biomedical research areas, however its growth is limited due to the lack of housing stock in the area. This project will not only increase the available housing, but also provide much needed jobs for the neighborhood and the region at a time when job creation is so important to our city and nation.



Based upon initial estimates of an economic study prepared for the developer, The Point will generate over 1,400 direct and indirect jobs. The total development costs of this project are approximately \$200 million and construction will take approximately 26 months to complete.

We believe that the application offers an important EB-5 investment opportunity within the City of Boston and the greater Boston region. The Point's developer, Samuels & Associates, is an experienced mixed-use development and management company in the region and the Boston Redevelopment Authority supports this application. We thank you for USCIS's efforts in expeditiously adjudicating this petition. Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian P. Golden Acting Director