

March 2, 2018

Mr. Aaron Michael Streit, Esq.
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Dear Mr. Streit:

By Executive Order 92-09, Governor Booth Gardner designated the Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD) the state agency to certify areas of high unemployment for purposes of the Immigration Act of 1990, Public Law 101-649, implementing regulations 8 C.F.R. 204.6(i). An area of high unemployment is defined as an area that is part of a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) that has experienced at least 150 percent higher unemployment when compared with the national average annual rate.

The 2016 national unemployment rate is 4.9 percent. To qualify, a geographic or political subdivision of the MSA or a city or town having a population of 20,000 or more, must have an unemployment rate of at least 7.35 percent. To determine if sub-areas meet the federal "high unemployment" definition, ESD has utilized employment and unemployment estimates from official sources (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)). Census-share methods are applied to these data to produce 2016 average annual unemployment rate estimates for subareas. The description of the overall methodology and the census-share method used can be found on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website: <http://www.bls.gov/lau/laumthd.htm>

Using the above-mentioned methodology to calculate the unemployment rate for sub-areas and based on the project location (South Jefferson Ave. & South 21st Street, Tacoma, WA 98402) which resides in census tract 616.02 of Pierce County, the area you provided ESD consists of one Census tract and has an unemployment rate of 14.1 percent. This area meets the requirements of a high unemployment area for purposes of investments under the EB-5 program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). These requirements and procedures may be changed by the U.S. Congress as part of the EB-5 program re-authorization legislation in 2018. This designation shall be in effect until ESD updates and publishes new unemployment rate estimates for the 2018 reporting year, which will be on or after May 2018, based upon current regulations.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (360) 407-4608.

Sincerely,



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