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July 1, 2009

Honorable Steve Beshear
Governor, Commonwealth of Kentucky
The Capital
700 Capital Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Beshear,

The eight (8) counties of the Lincoln Trail Area Development District (LTADD) are currently undergoing an economic transformation fueled by both the current national economic crisis and two future opportunities that will change the character of our workforce in this region. The region is fortunate to be the site of a highly favorable Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) action and is the proposed location of the NAATBatt Lithium-ion battery facility. Both of these actions will have a dual impact on the workforce through the development of federal white-collar jobs and those in the burgeoning 'green collar' fields.

An added benefit to these developments will be the opportunity to attract federal contractors to the region, as well as spin-off opportunities for firms in the energy field. When accounting for spin-off impacts, the opportunity for growth and investment will be wide-ranging in this somewhat predominantly rural, but rapidly-changing area.

We recently became aware of the *Immigrant Investor Pilot Program (EB-5 Visa – Pilot Program)* and its objective to bring foreign investment to the United States and create or save jobs in areas that are designated as "Targeted Employment Areas" by Governors in their respective states. This program will also be enhanced by the participation of the Midwest Center for Foreign Investment (MCFI), which has the expertise to facilitate these investments. If you were to designate the Lincoln Trail region as a targeted employment area (TEA), thus making the EB-5 program available to support our economic development efforts, the impact would be potentially staggering in light of the aforementioned opportunities.

Our region has already benefited from exposure to foreign guests as part of the Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration and will further benefit by visitors to the Commonwealth during the World Equestrian Games. The availability of the EB-5 Program for the entire region would combine an innovative investment

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and job creation tool for this part of the Commonwealth, at a time when our state will serve as a showpiece for thousands of foreign guests.

As part of the LTADD's mission to improve the quality of life for the region's citizens and improve our economic conditions, I would encourage you to designate the LTADD region as a "Targeted Employment Areas" as defined under the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program (EB-5 Visa – Pilot Program.)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendell C. Lawrence", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wendell C. Lawrence
Executive Director