



## A Vision for EB-5 2020

By Carolyn Lee

The last decade in EB-5 has been extraordinary. I've been lucky enough to ride the wave's crest with incredible clients building landmark EB-5 projects across America – rural and urban. But most of us who have “been there” now wonder – is the best behind us? What does the future hold? Do we have any say at all, or are we to be tossed about clinging to scraps of short-term Program extensions?

I hope not. EB-5 stakeholders deserve better. U.S. Department of Commerce reports that in just a two-year period, 11,000

immigrant investors provided \$5.8 billion to projects creating an estimated 174,000 jobs. IIUSA estimates that in the last decade, over \$27 billion has been injected into the U.S. economy thanks to the EB-5 program, creating an expected 276,000 U.S. jobs.

Wow. Let us all here at the IIUSA EB-5 Industry Forum in Seattle give each other a well-earned pat on the back and a round of applause.

And let's take back control over EB-5's fate. I have a modest proposal to that end. First, let's embrace integrity measures with fervor. We'll demand it of our legislators, regulators, and our industry colleagues. Second, let's channel EB-5 to areas of need in our country. There is so much need and we can douse with billions. Imagine the EB-5 Program growth that good can sustain. We can all truly win.

