

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1012

Alissa Emmel
Chief, Immigrant Investor Program Office
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
131 M Street NE Washington, D.C. 20529

August 28, 2023

Dear Chief Emmel:

I am writing to express my support for the consideration of expedited status for the Hart Dairy Creamery Corporation's Burke County Dairy Plant EB-5 investment project request because of its economic importance and national security interest to our country.

The Hart Dairy Creamery Corporation is currently developing plans to begin construction of a new dairy processing and packaging plant in Burke County, Georgia. Having received a \$40 million loan guarantee from USDA to complete the plant, the agency has already underscored the importance of this plant. Although Georgia has over 100 active dairy farms, there is a current shortage of dairy processing plants in the Southeastern United States. This new processing and packaging plant will add capacity in the region that will enhance food security for everyday American families. In addition, the plant is estimated to create well over 1,000 jobs in the area and account for an annual economic impact of more than \$300 million.

A robust dairy industry is critical to American food security efforts. Through numerous directives and programs, this notion has been underscored by USDA in the past. Specifically, USDA's Pasteurized Milk Ordinance and the Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance set standards for the production, processing, and handling of milk and milk products, which is important for public health and food security and is considered a national interest. In addition, the Dairy Import Tariff-Rate Quota Program and the Dairy Grading Branch of the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service also play a role in food security by regulating dairy imports. These directives and programs help bolster food security in the dairy industry and further support the need for consideration of expedited status for Hart Dairy's EB-5 investment project.

The Hart Dairy Creamery Corporation's processing and packaging plant in Burke, County, Georgia will create jobs, stimulate our economy, and bolster food security efforts in the dairy industry. Therefore, I support the consideration of expedited status for Hart Dairy's EB-5 investment project in order to begin construction of this plant. Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Cydney Karlins at (202) 224-3643 or Cydney_Karlins@warnock.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Raphael Warnock
U.S. Senator



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

October 6, 2023

Senator Raphael Warnock
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1012

Dear Senator Warnock:

Thank you for your letter dated August 28, 2023 supporting expedited processing of the Hart Dairy Creamery Corporation's Burke County Dairy Plant EB-5 investment project.

Immigration benefit requestors may request that USCIS expedite the adjudication of their applications or petitions. USCIS considers all expedite requests on a case-by-case basis and may require additional documentation to support such requests. The decision to accommodate an expedite request is within the sole discretion of USCIS. Because granting an expedite request means that USCIS would adjudicate the requestor's benefit ahead of others who filed earlier, USCIS carefully weighs the urgency and merit of each expedite request. USCIS may expedite a benefit request if it falls under one or more of the following criteria or circumstance:

- Severe financial loss to a company or person, provided that the need for urgent action is not the result of the petitioner's or applicant's failure to:
 - File the benefit request timely, or
 - Respond to any requests for additional evidence timely;
- Emergencies and urgent humanitarian reasons;
- Nonprofit organization (as designated by the Internal Revenue Service) whose request is in furtherance of the cultural or social interests of the United States;
- U.S. government interests (such as urgent cases for the Department of Defense or DHS, or other public safety or national security interests); or
- Clear USCIS error.

More detailed information about USCIS' expedite policy is available in [Volume 1, Part A, Chapter 5 of the Policy Manual](#) and at <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-guidance/how-to-make-an-expedite-request>. USCIS is committed to adjudicating immigration benefits in a timely manner and affording every petitioner or applicant full and fair consideration consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

If your constituent feels their case meets one of the expedite criteria they, or their attorney of record, may submit their request for expedited processing in writing and send it, together with evidence, to the attention of the Immigrant Investor Program Office by email at USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@uscis.dhs.gov. Please note, not every circumstance that fits in one of these categories will result in expedited processing.

Your letter and a copy of this response will be published on the USCIS Electronic Reading Room pursuant to the communication protocols in the EB-5 Regional Center Reform and Integrity Act of 2022.

We hope this information is helpful. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alissa Emmel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Alissa Emmel
Chief, Immigrant Investor Program Office