



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

November 19, 2019

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Wolf:

I applaud DHS's Known Employer pilot program as a critical effort to modernize our country's legal immigration system for the 21st Century and am writing you on behalf of Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS), which is a socio-spiritual Hindu organization with a presence in North Carolina.

There are over 97 BAPS Swaminarayan temples in communities across the United States, including in Morrisville, N.C. and Cary, N.C. These temples provide critical services to their communities that promote individual growth by fostering the Hindu ideals of faith, unity, and selfless service.

BAPS is a critical part of the fabric of local communities across the country. They represent the largest network of Hindu temples in North America and have organized several community events and other civic activities dedicated to improving society.

It is my understanding that only five organizations have successfully received preclearance under the Known Employer pilot so far. BAPS is exactly the type of organization that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Known Employer pilot seeks as a partner.

Although I understand that USCIS is currently not accepting new applications for the Known Employer pilot, I hope that you will give all fair and due consideration to BAPS should USCIS begin accepting new applications.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G Holding".

George Holding
Member of Congress



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

January 24, 2020

The Honorable George Holding
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Holding:

Thank you for your November 19, 2019 letter regarding Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha. Acting Secretary Wolf asked that I respond on his behalf.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) created the Known Employer pilot to assess the effectiveness of streamlined processing for certain immigrant and nonimmigrant employment-based visa petitions. USCIS launched the pilot in March 2016, and it has subsequently been extended through May 31, 2020.

Participation in the Known Employer pilot is limited to nine employers at any one time, and there are currently four openings created by the removal of inactive participants. USCIS will consider your recommendation, but please note that invitation to participate in the pilot is based upon a number of factors, including the organization or entity's filing volume across the eligible immigrant and nonimmigrant classifications.

USCIS is considering an extension of the pilot beyond May 2020, and, to the extent possible and within budget constraints, is also considering a standard, formal way to allow employers to apply for participation in the pilot.

More information about the Known Employer pilot can be found on the USCIS website.¹

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 272-1940.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Koumans".

Mark R. Koumans
Deputy Director

¹ See <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/information-employers-employees/known-employer-pilot>.