

**“Green Cards through Investment: Smart Investments in America” by Adam Edward Rothwell, Esq.**

The EB-5 investor green card program has really taken off in the past several years and shows no sign of slowing down. Investment based green cards make sense for many reasons, as the investments directly help the US economy. Investment based green cards truly are investments in America.

There are now over 500 Regional Centers throughout the US which are eligible for investment based green cards. Conversely, as recently as 2006, there were under 30 approved Regional Centers authorized for foreign investment leading to green cards in the United States. There has been a similar direct increase in the number of Petitions submitted for green cards through investment.

The drastic and rapid growth in both Regional Centers and petitions filed by foreign citizens for investment based green cards have been tied to an increase in information available on investment based green card requirements. At the same time, adjudication officers have improved their own processing standards, which include added increased uniformity in adjudicating petitions. Even five or six years ago the green card through investment program still came with substantial unknowns regarding each application process. And understandably most potential foreign investors were either unable and/or unwilling to handle substantial unknowns in processing when investment green cards are considered in context of the required sizeable investment.

Today green cards applied for based on investment are usually smooth applications. While no Petition should be guaranteed, when a well put together Immigrant Petition by an Alien Entrepreneur is filed, there exists a high chance of Approval from the outset. And with a minimum investment of \$500,000 to \$1 million, foreign citizens need to feel very strong about the chances of everything being approved before committing to the sizeable investment.

The green card through investment program provides across the board benefits. The investment based green card program brings foreign money into the United States to stay, whereas billions of dollars are sent overseas annually by foreign citizens in the form of remittances. Moreover, the green card through investment program literally provides thousands of new jobs in the US each year, and the investment green card program has already provided substantial boosts to US real estate markets.

Green cards through investment are smart investments in America. It's no surprise the investment based green card program has really taken off and still keeps growing at a rapid pace.

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