



STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

December 13, 2019

Cole Varga
Executive Director
Exodus Refugee Immigration, Inc.
2457 E. Washington Street, Suite A
Indianapolis, IN 46201

Dear Mr. Varga,

As I recently announced in unveiling my 2020 agenda, Indiana is a destination of certainty, stability and opportunity. As a state, we are on course to become the absolute best place in America to grow as an individual, a family, a business and as a community. Our long tradition of welcoming and helping to resettle refugees with support from our federal partners, shows the world the compassion of Hoosiers and our willingness to give others the ability to grow and prosper in the great state of Indiana.

In just the last five years, State based non-profit agencies have resettled thousands of deserving, qualified individuals in the Hoosier state, who have been fully and carefully vetted by relevant federal government agencies. These are NOT illegal or unlawful immigrants but individuals who have gone through all the proper channels, were persecuted for their religious or political beliefs in their homeland and have sought and been granted refugee status in our nation of immigrants.

A Presidential Executive Order issued on September 26, 2019 requires Governors and local officials, for the first time, to certify in writing the state's consent for local non-profit agencies to participate in federal funding opportunities that helps to cover the costs of resettlement. In addition, appropriate local officials must also certify in writing their consent. Indiana non-profit agencies have participated in the federal refugee resettlement program for many years and have requested that they be allowed to continue to do so without interruption. As required by the Executive Order, Indiana offers written consent with this correspondence.

As President Trump wrote in the Executive Order: *Close cooperation with State and local governments ensures that refugees are resettled in communities that are eager and equipped to support their successful integration into American society and the labor force.* Developing a 21st century skilled and ready workforce is a high priority of our Administration and we will welcome those who are ready to participate fully in our economy, showing civility and compassion to those who have suffered persecution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Holcomb".

Eric J. Holcomb
Governor of Indiana