



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

**FEB 09 2016**

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sablan:

Thank you for your January 27, 2016 letter regarding the implementation of the Enhancing Opportunities final rule and your request for a follow-up report on the status of the relevant extension of stay petitions.

The Enhancing Opportunities final rule was published on January 15, 2016, and will become effective on February 16, 2016. This rule will provide up to 240 days continued employment authorization for Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker (CW-1) nonimmigrants if a petitioner has timely filed Form I-129CW, Petition for a CNMI-Only Nonimmigrant Transitional Worker, or successor form requesting an extension of stay. We are confident that this rule will have a positive impact on the islands and the CW-1 program.

As of February 1, 2016, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) had completed the initial processing of all actionable petitions impacted by the absence of the rule. Our most recent analysis indicates that 805 of the affected petitions remain pending, awaiting additional supporting documentation that must be submitted by the petitioner. It is our goal to complete the final adjudication of all CW cases as promptly as possible. This remains a priority for USCIS. I would also note that when the Enhancing Opportunities rule takes effect on February 16, beneficiaries of timely filed extension petitions that are pending on that date will be authorized to continue their employment for the remaining available balance of the 240-day period since expiration of the previous authorization, if any, until the petition is adjudicated.

Thank you again for your ongoing interest in the CW-1 program. We appreciate and share your concern for the CW cases. Should you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "León Rodríguez", written over a large, light-colored scribble or watermark.

León Rodríguez  
Director