



U.S. Executive Offices
Corporate Immigration Services
155 Chestnut Ridge Road
P.O. Box 0445
Montvale, NJ 07645 USA
Tel (201) 573-3532 Fax (866) 843-5812
ingersollrand.com

March 13, 2007

Via U.S. Mail

Director, Regulatory Management Division
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Third Floor
Washington, DC 20529

Via E-mail

OSComments@dhs.gov

RE: DHS Docket No. USCIS-2006-0044
Comments Regarding the Proposed Rule to Increase Immigration
and Naturalization Benefits Application and Petitions Fees

Dear Dr. Gonzalez:

Ingersoll Rand is a leading diversified industrial company providing products, services and integrated solutions to industries ranging from transportation and manufacturing to food retailing, construction, and agriculture.

We conduct manufacturing and assembly operations in 38 plants in the United States; 1 plant in Canada; 32 plants in Europe; 16 plants in Asia; and 6 plants in Latin America. Additionally, we maintain offices, warehouses, and repair centers throughout the world. With a 135-year-old heritage of technological innovation, we help companies worldwide to be more productive, efficient, and innovative.

Ingersoll Rand employs approximately 40,000 employees, with 22,000 in the United States and 18,000 outside the United States. Some of our strategic brands include:

- Bobcat ® compact construction equipment
- Club Car ® golf and utility vehicles
- Hussmann ® stationary refrigeration and food merchandising equipment
- Ingersoll Rand ® industrial and construction equipment
- Schlage ® security locks and systems
- Thermo King ® transport temperature-control equipment and systems

In order to keep our competitive edge, we recruit the best and brightest individuals regardless of their nationality. Many of our main competitors are foreign based companies who are competing for the same talent pool. Typically, when we hire foreign nationals they

are at the Master's level of education and above. And while our pool of foreign nationals working in the United States is a small percentage of our overall employee count, foreign nationals are a vital part of our workforce and critical to our continued success here in the United States.

Our main concern as it relates to the proposed increase in application fees is the proposed fee for the I-485 application, which includes with the fee of \$905 the interim benefits of the I-765 (Application for Employment Authorization) and the I-131 (Application for Travel Document).

We ask that you consider modifying this proposed fee increase to allow for greater flexibility as to who, and under what circumstances, the \$905 fee must be paid. In our case, we would be paying a much higher fee – from \$325 to \$905 – for interim benefits our workers do not need nor are they seeking.

We employ foreign workers in a variety of temporary visa categories, including H-1B, L-1, F-1, TN, and J-1 status. Foreign workers working for our company in H-1B or L-1 status who apply for permanent residence do not additionally seek interim benefits under the I-485 application as they can, and do, continue to lawfully work and travel in H-1B or L-1 status while their application is pending.

Our situation in seeking greater flexibility from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on the proposed fee for I-485 applications is not unique. Other examples include family members or other individuals who do not seek or wish to receive the interim benefits. They too should not have to pay the greatly increased fee which includes services from which they cannot or will not benefit from.

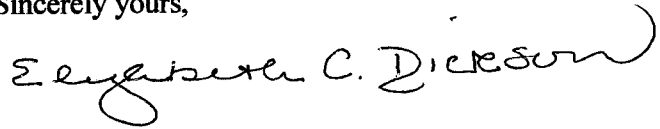
In testimony this past month before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law on the issue of this proposed rule, when asked about flexibility for family applicants who may not need work authorization for a 15 year-old but still have to pay the full fee, you recognized that this could be an issue and that such issues were part of the "comment period".

We trust that USCIS will agree that practically speaking it would make more sense to allow for different fees depending upon whether an individual requires or seeks the interim benefits offered by the I-485. As an added benefit, USCIS will not need to needlessly process and adjudicate interim benefits for individuals who have another means of lawfully working and traveling in the United States while their petition for permanent residence is pending. Without this flexibility, there would be duplicative actions on the part of your Agency thereby taking away from resources which can be better used to ensure the system overall is more efficient and timely.

We urge USCIS to adopt greater flexibility into its proposed fee schedule as it pertains to I-485 applications by considering what benefits applicants will receive based on their current immigration status and consider reducing the proposed application fee for those applicants who do not, or cannot, seek the interim benefits of employment authorization and advance parole.

Thank you for hearing our concerns. We look forward to your taking leadership on this critical matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth C. Dickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Dickson".

Elizabeth C. Dickson

Manager, Corporate Immigration Services

cc: Senator Patrick Leahy, Chair, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
cc: Senator Edward Kennedy, Chair, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Sub-Committee on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship
cc: Representative John Conyers, Chair, U.S. House Judiciary Committee
cc: Representative Zoe Lofgren, Chair, U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law