

Montreal, February 19, 2007

Director  
Regulatory Management Division  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Department of Homeland Security  
111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., 3rd Floor  
Washington, DC 20529  
Fax: 866-466-5370.

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the artists that we represent at l'Agence Station bleue, I submit these comments in response to the proposed rule published in 72 Fed. Reg. 4888-4915 (February 1, 2007) to adjust the immigration and naturalization benefit application and petition fee schedule.

Since 2000, constantly on the look-out for what is new and innovative agence Station bleue offers a wide variety of artists who distinguish themselves by their quality and professionalism. Every year, some of our artists such as Quartango, The Alcan String Quartet, Les Voix Humaines and the harpsichordist Luc Beauséjour.

We are opposed to the proposed increase of the filing fees for nonimmigrant worker petitions. The proposed increase in the Form I-129 and Form I-824 filing fees will be financially burdensome to our artists. Before the USCIS contemplates any price increase, regular processing procedures must be improved.

USCIS should not consider a fee increase without first improving regular processing procedures in the following ways:

Reduce the maximum processing period for O and P petitions to 30 days. Receipt notices from USCIS often indicate that processing periods will range anywhere between 30 and 120 days. This time span is simply too ambiguous and lengthy to accommodate booking.

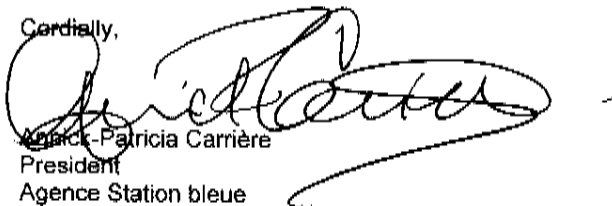
Improve the reliability and consistency in adjudication of O and P petitions. Current USCIS policies and practices result in inefficient processing of O and P visas - causing delay, expense, and unwarranted requests for further evidence. USCIS must implement uniform policies, procedures, and training for efficient processing of petitions.

Implement uniform policies to improve the traditional expedite service. The USCIS has made traditional expedite processing available at no additional fee to petitioners who experience an unforeseen emergency. Since implementing the Premium Process Service, the USCIS has allowed nonprofit organizations to remain eligible for the traditional expedite. However, the standards for granting expedited processing requests are unclear. The traditional expedite is not helpful unless there are clear, uniform policies appropriately followed and administered by USCIS.

We are grateful for the opportunity to comment on this proposed fee increase. We oppose the proposed fee increase and urge the USCIS to demonstrably improve processing of regular petitions before burdening petitioners with any increase in processing fees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,



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