

[MM/DD/YY]

VIA FEDEX PRIORITY

USCIS

Attn: I-140 (Box 88774)
131 S. Dearborn St., 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60603-5517

Form: I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker
Re: EB-2 Classification – Advanced Degree/National Interest Waiver
Petitioner: [Confidential]

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is written in support of the I-140 EB-2 National Interest Waiver (NIW) petition (“Petition”) filed for [Confidential] (“Petitioner”) pursuant to section 203(b)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”), 8 U.S.C. §1153(b)(2), and *Matter of Dhanasar*, 26 I&N Dec. 884 (AAO 2016).

The Petitioner is an **Aquaculture Engineer** with **15** years of experience in shrimp farming. The Petitioner's proposed endeavor is to **innovate and promote the development of the shrimp production industry in the United States by implementing a proprietary production model using shrimp ponds in three-phase greenhouse systems equipped with state-of-the-art technology. This model will allow shrimp farmers to reuse groundwater and grow shrimp in a wide range of climates spanning from -20°C in winter to 30°C in summer, thus ensuring the production of high-quality shrimp year-round. See Exhibit 6.**

- The proposed endeavor has substantial merit in the areas of **food security, economy, and environmental sustainability** because it will:
 - Decrease import dependence on the shrimp industry by implementing a proprietary production model for local shrimp products, ultimately increasing the availability of high-quality fresh shrimp for the U.S. market, **thus strengthening national food security.**
 - Drive the development of new related industries in areas like feed processing, shrimp larvae production, food processing, transportation, and infrastructure by implementing large-scale shrimp production, **thereby creating new business opportunities, and stimulating economic growth.**
 - Reduce carbon footprint and energy use in shrimp farming by implementing local production with water reuse and advanced greenhouse systems, contributing to a **more sustainable and eco-friendly shrimp industry.**
- The proposed endeavor has national importance because it will:

- Ensure a consistent supply of nutritious seafood year-round by increasing the availability of fresh, high-quality shrimp through innovative groundwater reuse and temperature control, reducing dependency on imports, **thereby enhancing food security across the United States.**
 - Create new jobs in the agricultural sector by implementing the proprietary production model for shrimp production and diversifying agricultural production in regions without seawater access, **thus boosting employment, stimulating growth, and promoting resilience for a robust U.S. economy.**
 - Preserve natural resources and protect ecosystems by minimizing the environmental impact of shrimp farming through environmentally friendly techniques and sustainable aquaculture practices, **thus ensuring long-term environmental health, and fostering environmental sustainability in the United States.**
- The Petitioner is qualified and well-positioned to advance the proposed work based on her expertise, education, and professional experience.
 - On balance, it benefits the United States to waive the requirements of a job offer and labor certification for the Petitioner

In this Petition, we submit probative evidence to demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that the Petitioner is a professional in the field of **shrimp farming** and that her work in the United States will be in the national interest. The evidence demonstrates that the Petitioner meets the criteria for the EB-2 National Interest Waiver classification.

I. The Petitioner's Proposed Endeavor in the United States

Within the Proposed Endeavor Statement enclosed as *Exhibit 6*, the Petitioner states:

My proposed endeavor is to innovate and promote the development of the shrimp production industry in the United States by implementing a proprietary production model based on the use of shrimp ponds in three-phase greenhouse systems equipped with state-of-the-art technology. I will do so by utilizing my extensive experience in aquaculture in furtherance of my proposed endeavor for the benefit of the United States. My innovative approach will allow shrimp farmers to reuse groundwater and grow shrimp in a wide range of climates spanning from -20°C in winter to 30°C in summer, thus ensuring the production of high-quality shrimp year-round.

My goal is to make the United States a major shrimp producer, even in states that lack access to seawater, by employing environmentally friendly techniques that are adaptable to diverse climatic conditions. Despite its potential for domestic production, the United States currently leads the world in shrimp imports due to lack of adequate infrastructure and dependence on imports, which limits the U.S. population's access to this product of high nutritional value.

My work will continue to support advancements in my field by improving food security through the increase of the availability of fresh, high-quality shrimp for the U.S. population. In addition, the implementation of my sustainable proprietary production model will stimulate the creation of new jobs in the agricultural sector thereby boosting

employment generation. This will result in the diversification of agricultural production in regions without access to saltwater which will promote economic growth. Finally, my endeavor will foster environmental sustainability by promoting sustainable aquaculture practices.

Overall, my commitment goes beyond the creation of my own company. My goal is to work with other producers including shrimp farmers to help them implement and replicate my model. My work will continue to be circulated in the field through publications and conferences, thus contributing to the advancement of knowledge in the field of aquaculture. See Exhibit 6.

II. Petitioner's Qualification for the Preference Classification Based on his Advanced Degree

The proposed endeavor has **substantial merit** because it introduces a proprietary production model for shrimp farming in the U.S., utilizing advanced greenhouse systems to ensure year-round, high-quality shrimp production across diverse climates. Her innovation reduces dependence on imports, enhances food security, and promotes environmentally friendly practices. By stimulating job creation and economic growth in areas lacking seawater access, the project also diversifies agricultural production. The Petitioner's commitment to sharing her model with other producers and disseminating her work through publications and conferences further supports the advancement of sustainable aquaculture practices, making the endeavor highly beneficial for the U.S. shrimp industry. *See Exhibit 6.*

The Petitioner's endeavor has substantial merit because it will decrease import dependence on the shrimp industry by implementing a proprietary production model for local shrimp products, **thus strengthening national food security.** *See Exhibit 6.* The United States imports 41% of the world's shrimp, exposing it to market volatility and high transport costs. In the first half of 2022, shrimp imports rose by 9% to 441,299 tonnes, valued at USD 4.2 billion, with 41% being raw peeled, 32% raw shell-on, and 26% processed products. *See Exhibit 17.1.* A study conducted by Oceana revealed that 30% of shrimp products from 111 grocery stores and restaurants were misrepresented through mislabeling and misleading practices. The highest rates of misrepresentation were found in New York (43%), Washington, D.C. (33%), and the Gulf of Mexico region (30%). This study underscores the lack of transparency in the seafood supply chain, which misleads consumers and raises significant conservation concerns. It highlights the urgent need for greater transparency and accountability to combat seafood fraud and ensure the integrity of seafood products. *See Exhibit 17.2.* As a result, the Petitioner will significantly enhance local shrimp production, ensuring a consistent and safe supply for the U.S. market. This initiative will reduce reliance on imports and promote a healthier diet by providing a fresh, locally sourced alternative, demonstrating substantial merit. *See Exhibits 6 and 38*

The Petitioner's endeavor has substantial merit because it will drive the development of new related industries in areas like feed processing, shrimp larvae production and infrastructure by implementing large-scale shrimp production, **thereby creating new business opportunities, and stimulating economic growth.** *See Exhibit 6.* An article by Alune, a leading aquaculture financial technology company, that works with farmers, investors, and technology partners, outlines the environmental challenges of untreated shrimp farm effluent and recommends strategies like improved feeding regimes, settlement ponds, and regular siphoning to manage organic loads and

prevent pollution. It emphasizes America's rapidly growing shrimp aquaculture industry creates jobs and income but often leads to environmental issues from nutrient-rich effluent. Excessive discharge degrades water quality and exceeds local water bodies' carrying capacity, harming the environment and productivity. Using settlement ponds, as proposed by the Petitioner, where effluent settles to trap suspended solids and organic matter, can reduce solids by up to 90%, mitigating environmental damage and supporting sustainable shrimp farming. *See Exhibit 17.3.* In this case, the Petitioner will create a three-phase greenhouse system with rectangular ponds for shrimp farming, utilizing recirculated groundwater and 100% water recovery to produce 360,000 pounds of shrimp annually on 20 acres, significantly boosting economic growth through job creation and industry development. *See Exhibits 6 and 38.*

The Petitioner's endeavor demonstrates substantial merit because it will reduce carbon footprint and energy use in shrimp farming by implementing local production with water reuse and advanced greenhouse systems, contributing to a **more sustainable and eco-friendly shrimp industry in the United States**. *See Exhibit 6.* A specialized article by Aquadapt provides comprehensive information on the shrimp farming industry, offering a balanced view of challenges and solutions in shrimp farming. The article highlights the industry's environmental impact through carbon emissions, water utilization, and wastewater discharge. Implementing sustainable practices such as carbon-negative farming, strategic feed selection, and natural remediation is crucial. Investigating and addressing the carbon footprint of shrimp farming will enhance ecological balance and promote a more sustainable industry. *See Exhibit 17.4.* In this scenario, the Petitioner will integrate sustainable practices, such as water reuse and climate adaptation, into her proprietary model, effectively reducing the carbon footprint. Consequently, the Petitioner's initiative will bolster the long-term sustainability and environmental responsibility of the U.S. shrimp industry, demonstrating substantial merit. *See Exhibits 6 and 38.*

The foregoing evidence demonstrates, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the Petitioner's endeavor has substantial merit.

B. The Proposed Endeavor has National Importance.

The Petitioner's endeavor focuses on transforming the U.S. shrimp production industry through innovative, sustainable practices. She will reduce dependency on imports, enhance food security, create jobs, and stimulate economic growth, particularly in rural areas. Additionally, she promotes environmentally friendly techniques, reducing the carbon footprint and protecting natural resources, thereby supporting overall economic and environmental sustainability in the United States. The Petitioner's endeavor has national importance because it addresses issues that U.S. government entities have identified as critical, such as the **U.S. Department of Commerce's** initiatives to promote sustainable aquaculture, the **U.S. Marine Shrimp Farming Program** to support the domestic shrimp farming industry and the **U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF)** research to advance food security and environmental sustainability. *See Exhibit 6.*

The Petitioner's endeavor demonstrates national importance because it will ensure a consistent supply of nutritious seafood year-round by increasing the availability of fresh, high-quality shrimp through innovative groundwater reuse and temperature control, reducing dependency on imports, **thereby enhancing food security across the United States**. *See Exhibit 6.* Pursuant to the U.S. Department of Commerce, aquaculture is the world's fastest-growing food production form. U.S.

marine aquaculture boosts seafood supply, supports commercial fisheries, and has significant growth potential, playing a crucial role in national food security. *See Exhibit 18.1.* Shrimp imported from India pose serious health risks, necessitating increased FDA oversight and a potential ban to protect American consumers and support the domestic shrimp industry. According to the U.S. government, Indian shrimp, which constitutes 40% of U.S. consumption, often fails to meet health standards due to inadequate FDA testing. Members of Congress have highlighted the threat of the White Spot Syndrome Virus and its negative impact on domestic shrimp prices. Legislative proposals like the LESS Act aim to increase FDA oversight and ensure the safety of imported shrimp since immediate action is necessary to protect consumers and support domestic shrimpers. *See Exhibit 18.2.* The Petitioner will implement a sustainable local shrimp production model to reduce import reliance and enhance shrimp safety and quality for American consumers, demonstrating **national importance**. *See Exhibits 6 and 38.*

The Petitioner's endeavor has national importance because it will create new jobs in the agricultural sector in shrimp production by implementing the proprietary production model and diversifying agricultural production in regions without seawater access, **thus boosting employment, stimulating growth, and promoting resilience for a robust economy**. *See Exhibit 6.* The U.S. Marine Shrimp Farming Program (USMSFP) supports domestic shrimp farming by addressing competitive disadvantages through advanced research and technology transfer. It develops and disseminates SPF shrimp bred for rapid growth and disease resistance and biosecure production technologies for super-intensive farming with minimal water use. The program focuses on disease research, genetic improvement, and sustainable, high-yield farming practices for inland locations. USMSFP aims to reduce import reliance, ensure high-quality shrimp production, and support economic growth through job creation and industry development. *See Exhibit 18.3.* In this case, the Petitioner will support the USDA program by designing targeted training programs for farmers, technicians, and managers. She will develop modules on pond management, aquaculture technology, food safety, and sustainability. Hence, the Petitioner's endeavor will stimulate economic growth through job creation in the U.S. shrimp industry, thus having **national importance**. *See Exhibits 6 and 38.*

The Petitioner's endeavor demonstrates national importance because it will preserve natural resources and protect ecosystems by minimizing the environmental impact of shrimp farming through environmentally friendly techniques and sustainable aquaculture practices, **thus ensuring long-term environmental health, and fostering environmental sustainability**. *See Exhibit 6.* According to U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) research, aquaculture is the world's fastest-growing food production system, with shrimp being the most popular seafood in the U.S. To meet rising demand, shrimp production must intensify, which will cause environmental and social issues. Expanding shrimp farming through indoor recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) offers a sustainable solution, using biofilters to maintain water quality. Buying domestically farmed shrimp reduces certain environmental impacts and guides sustainable shrimp production expansion in the United States. *See Exhibit 18.4.* In such a case, the Petitioner will support NSF by implementing an innovative production model using three-phase greenhouse systems with state-of-the-art technology, promoting water reuse and climate adaptability. Hence, the Petitioner's endeavor has national importance because it will reduce the carbon footprint associated with international shrimp transportation. *See Exhibits 6 and 38.*

The Petitioner worked at **(Company)** as a **sales and technical advisor** from **February 1, 2014, to December 30, 2014**. She managed visiting shrimp farming clients, presenting the usefulness of fertilizers in shrimp production, and providing recommendations for the amount and timing of fertilizer application based on the type of crop, climatic season, pond soil type, water quality, and salinity. *See Exhibit 21.*

The Petitioner worked at **(Company)** as a **Site Resident** from **January 3, 2011, to December 31, 2013**. Her duties included conducting interviews and environmental surveys with camaronas and bananeras, consulting on water use and exploitation programs for companies, preparing Environmental Impact Sheets and studies, supervising construction, aquaculture, and urban works, performing topographic surveys of agricultural and aquaculture properties using GPS, and creating layout and drawing plans in AUTOCAD 2D. *See Exhibit 21.*

The Petitioner worked at **(Company)** as a **Sales and Technical Advisor** from **February 1, 2015, to April 14, 2021**. She visited and advised shrimp farm owners across the country, sold and delivered aquaculture supplies, and guided diverse shrimp farming groups, including super-intensive greenhouse farms, and extensive and semi-intensive open-air farms in freshwater, brackish water, and saltwater. *See Exhibit 21.*

The Petitioner worked at **(Company)**, in the **Shrimp Company area**, as a **Technical Advisor** from **January 2, 2021, to the present**. She handled shrimp larvae reception and analysis, weekly weight monitoring, and pathological assessments, studying laboratory analysis and medicating shrimp, controlling, and advising personnel in charge of ponds, and shrimp quality control and reporting during harvest. *See Exhibit 21.*

To reinforce the evidence in her Curriculum Vitae, the Petitioner provides letters of employment verification in **Exhibits 22 through 29**, including a letter from **Mr. X** evidencing her work experience from February 2, 2015, to April 4, 2021; a letter from **Mr. X** evidencing her work experience from February 10, 2016, to February 9, 2022; a letter from **Mr. X**, evidencing her work experience from May 15, 2011, to May 15, 2013; from June 15, 2013, to June 10, 2014, and from January 2, 2021, to the present day; and a letter from **Mr. X** evidencing her work experience as a full-time Site Resident from March 2011 to June 18, 2013. These letters significantly support the Petitioner's endeavor as they confirm her extensive professional experience and skills in the shrimp farming industry, thereby enhancing her credibility, and demonstrating her capability to implement and manage innovative aquaculture projects in the United States.

Building upon her extensive professional experience, the Petitioner also presents evidence of continuing education enclosed in **Exhibits 30 through 33**, which includes certificates conferred by the National Chamber of Aquaculture, CSA, and CENAIM – ESPOL for participation in courses on “Bentos and their impact on production,” “Soil and Water Quality,” and “Shrimp Diseases, mitigation strategies,” as well as a certificate from the Technical Secretary of Training and Vocational Training for completing the course in “Business Administration.” These certificates demonstrate her commitment to continuous learning and staying current with industry best practices. The specialized knowledge gained from these courses enhances her expertise in critical areas of shrimp farming, such as environmental impact, water quality management, disease mitigation, and business administration. This comprehensive skill set further solidifies her ability to implement innovative and sustainable shrimp production methods, thereby bolstering her potential to successfully advance the U.S. shrimp industry.

Lastly, to bolster her employment history, the Petitioner presents her Publications & Paper Journals enclosed in ***Exhibit 34***, including a summary of her thesis, written as a prerequisite for her Aquaculture Engineering degree, titled “Study of the Stomach Content of the Chame (*Dormitator latifrons*) Which is Breeding in Shrimp Pools.” This thesis demonstrates her deep understanding of the biological and ecological aspects of aquaculture. By analyzing the dietary habits of Chame in shrimp pools, she has gained valuable insights into the interactions between different species within aquaculture systems, which is crucial for optimizing shrimp production. This research underscores her ability to apply scientific principles to improve aquaculture practices, thereby reinforcing her expertise and enhancing her capacity to innovate and promote sustainable shrimp farming methods in the United States.

Overall, the Petitioner is a highly skilled **aquaculture engineer** with **15** years of progressive professional experience. Her roles have included analyzing shrimp larvae, advising on shrimp farming practices, conducting environmental surveys, and preparing impact studies. These varied responsibilities have given her a profound understanding of the aquaculture industry, especially in shrimp production and sustainable farming practices. This extensive expertise equips her to successfully implement and manage innovative aquaculture projects in the United States, thereby driving advancements in food security, economic growth, and environmental sustainability. *See Exhibits 21 through 34.*

Thus, the foregoing evidence establishes, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the Petitioner is well-positioned to advance the proposed endeavor based on her knowledge and skills.

A. The Petitioner is well-positioned to advance the proposed endeavor based on her record of success.

In recognition of the Petitioner's unparalleled expertise, three peers and other experts familiar with the field and her work have submitted letters in support of the prospective impact of the endeavor and the Petitioner's ability to continue work in the United States. These letters serve as a further illustration of the Petitioner's impressive track record in the field of endeavor. *See Exhibits 35 through 37.* Each professional has attested to the Petitioner's knowledge, skills, and abilities in the field and believes in her ability to implement her endeavor in the United States.

Furthermore, the Petitioner has received a letter from **Mr. X**, (*description of the recommender*) who has evaluated the Petitioner's record of success in the field of endeavor as well as the relevance of her undertaking in the United States. **Mr. X** establishes that Petitioner's system has increased yearly profitability in the shrimp farming industry by 300%, highlighting its economic viability and competitiveness. By using innovative techniques like feed conversion with microscopic organisms and effective predator and disease control, she has made shrimp farming more sustainable and profitable. Moreover, **Mr. X** confirms that “*Petitioner's past achievements serve as a compelling foundation for her proposed project in the United States. I am confident that by collaborating with Ms. Aguirre, the U.S. can replicate and build upon her success in Ecuador to revolutionize the shrimp farming industry in the United States*” *See Exhibit 35.*

Similarly, the Petitioner has additionally received a letter from **Mr. X**, (*description of the recommender*). **Mr. X** has examined the Petitioner's professional achievements in her field of expertise, and he has provided his assessment of the endeavor's relevance. **Mr. X** elaborates that the Petitioner conducted regular water studies and chemical analyses, leading to significant

improvements in shrimp growth, feed conversion efficiency, and survival rates. She reduced feed conversion from 1.5 to 0.9 and increased survival rates from 60% to 100% in pre-nurseries and from 55% to 80% at harvest. These results demonstrate her expertise and effective application of theoretical knowledge and practical skills in shrimp production. **Mr. X** also adds that *“Through her innovative approach and collaborative efforts, she will position the United States as a global leader in high-quality, sustainable shrimp production.”* **See Exhibit 36.**

Lastly, the Petitioner has received a letter from **Mr. X**, (*description of the recommender*), who has assessed the Petitioner's record of success in the field of endeavor as well as the importance of her undertaking. **Mr. X** argues that the Petitioner's extensive experience and proven track record make her an asset to the U.S. shrimp industry, highlighting her successful implementation of a three-phase shrimp farming system in Ecuador, which achieved monthly production cycles, significantly more harvests per year, using less land and water, and increased profits of up to 300%. Additionally, **Mr. X** corroborates that *“Petitioner's expertise will be instrumental in advancing the U.S. shrimp industry, reducing dependence on imports, increasing domestic production, and promoting environmentally friendly aquaculture practice”* **See Exhibit 37.**

Thus, the Petitioner has established, by a preponderance of the evidence, that she is well-positioned to advance the proposed endeavor based on her record of success.

B. The Petitioner is well-positioned to advance the proposed endeavor based on her model or plan for future activities in furtherance of the endeavor.

The Petitioner is submitting a detailed plan for future activities in furtherance of the endeavor to transform the U.S. shrimp production industry by implementing a proprietary three-phase greenhouse system using shrimp ponds, enabling year-round production of high-quality shrimp in diverse climates. This innovative approach reduces reliance on imports, improves food security, and promotes environmental sustainability. The Petitioner designs specific training programs for various audiences, including theoretical classes, hands-on training, interactive sessions, and ongoing education, in collaboration with experts and institutions. By organizing field practices and providing comprehensive training materials, the Petitioner ensures effective knowledge transfer, enabling shrimp farmers to adopt and replicate the model. The initiative boosts job creation, diversifies the agricultural economy, and establishes the U.S. as a major shrimp producer through sustainable practices. **See Exhibit 38.**

The Petitioner provides business loan details from Start Point, an invoice issued **on (date)**, for \$1,500.00, the public deed of sale for a house located on **(address)**, the deed of sale for an urban plot by the Municipality of Santa Rosa, the sales contract for a Daihatsu vehicle with license plate, and the registration for a BYD vehicle with license plate **(No.)**. **See Exhibits 39 through 47.** These exhibits demonstrate her financial stability and capacity to fund her innovative shrimp production project. The documented assets and financial transactions provide evidence of her ability to secure necessary resources, which is crucial for implementing and sustaining her proprietary production model in the U.S. shrimp industry.

Furthermore, the Petitioner has gathered interest in her undertaking by sharing it with colleagues in her field. The Petitioner has already drawn up a proposal for her proposed endeavor, and she has received the interest of a member of her field. **See Exhibit 48.**

Additionally, the Petitioner has received another **letter of interest** from **Mr. X, (description of the Company)**, who has exhibited an intent to partner with the Petitioner's proposed endeavor. Lake Campground & Resort, the largest campground in Wisconsin, expresses interest in collaborating with the Petitioner on her innovative shrimp production model. Lake's extensive land holdings, including lakes and camping space, present a unique opportunity for the Petitioner to integrate sustainable shrimp farming into its existing hospitality business. The proposed collaboration will benefit both parties by making Lake the first campground in Wisconsin to feature a shrimp farm, attracting visitors interested in sustainable aquaculture. Lake will rely on the Petitioner's technical expertise to guide the construction and operation of the shrimp farm, aligning with their commitment to sustainability and innovation. This partnership aims to showcase innovative aquaculture and contribute to a more secure and sustainable food supply chain in the United States. *See Exhibit 48.*

Thus, the Petitioner has established, by a preponderance of the evidence, that she is well-positioned to advance the proposed endeavor based on her model or plan for future activities.

C. The Petitioner is well-positioned to advance the proposed endeavor based on any progress made toward achieving the proposed endeavor.

For progress towards the proposed endeavor, the Petitioner has already begun laying the groundwork in the United States by incorporating her company, _____ **SHRIMP INDUSTRY LLC,** in **Wisconsin**. This state offers the ideal conditions for her large-scale shrimp production project. She has secured initial financing interest, including a potential \$100,000 loan from an American company, with a possible increase to \$4 million upon timely payments. Additionally, she owns valuable properties in Ecuador that will provide further funding. The Petitioner is working on obtaining essential operating regulations and permits. She has also established the Articles of Organization and the Limited Liability Company Agreement for _____ **SHRIMP INDUSTRY LLC**. Once authorized, she plans to develop infrastructure, including the construction of rectangular ponds with a three-phase polyethylene greenhouse system, a constant recirculation groundwater system, advanced technology for temperature and oxygen control, and facilities for storage and laboratory analysis. This strategic approach underscores her commitment and readiness to advance her innovative shrimp production project in the U.S. *See Exhibits 38, 49 and 50.*

Please see ***Exhibits 51 through 58*** for certificates that the Petitioner has earned, including the Certificate conferred by the National Chamber of Aquaculture for participation in the “Aquaexpo El Oro 2014,” the Certificate conferred by the National Chamber of Aquaculture for participation in the “AQUAEXPO Machala 2014,” the Certificate conferred by Alimentos S.A for participation in the training program “Management of balanced foods and detection of diseases in the field,” and the Certificate conferred by The Higher Polytechnic School of the Litoral, The National Center for Aquaculture and Marine Research, and The National Chamber of Aquaculture for participation in the “XII Ecuadorian Aquaculture Congress & Aquaexpo, AQUA 2010.” This evidence demonstrates that she has been recognized for her efforts pertaining to the **development of the shrimp production industry** and that she has already made progress toward achieving her proposed endeavor.

These certificates showcase her extensive experience and recognition in the aquaculture field, reinforcing her credibility and expertise to innovate and promote the development of the shrimp

production industry in the United States. This recognition is beneficial for her proposed endeavor as it highlights her commitment to advancing sustainable aquaculture practices, which will ultimately contribute to food security, economic growth, and environmental sustainability in the U.S. shrimp production industry.

Please see **Exhibit 59** for the certification letter signed by Aguirre O., evidencing that the Petitioner is a founding member, president of the Administrative Board, Supervisory Board, and main member of the Agricultural Association Producing with Excellence "Produex" since its creation on 16th December 2010. This letter confirms she has made progress toward her proposed endeavor by developing her reputation as a competent professional in the field. It also highlights her leadership and long-term commitment to excellence in aquaculture in the United States.

Thus, the Petitioner has established, by a preponderance of the evidence, that she is well-positioned to advance the proposed endeavor based on any progress made toward achieving the proposed endeavor.

D. The Petitioner is well-positioned to advance the proposed endeavor based on the interest of potential customers, users, or other relevant entities or individuals.

Please see **Exhibit 60** for a professional in the field of endeavor looking to partner with the Petitioner's undertaking. This letter is discussed in detail in *section D*.

We accordingly demonstrate that the Petitioner is well-positioned to advance the proposed endeavor based on her education, knowledge, and skills, her record of success, her model or plan for future activities in furtherance of the endeavor, the progress she has made toward achieving the proposed endeavor, as well as the interest of potential customers in the field.

Prong 3: On Balance, It Would Be Beneficial to the United States to Waive the Requirements of a Job Offer and Thus, of a Labor Certification

A. It would be impractical either for the foreign national to secure a job offer or for the Petitioner to obtain a labor certification.

- i.* The Petitioner's proposed endeavor includes her academic skills in **aquaculture and environmental sustainability**, her record of success in **innovative shrimp production projects**, and her unique ability to tailor solutions to **shrimp farmers and the aquaculture industry**. This skill set is not easily adaptable to the labor certification process. *See Exhibits 6 and 38.*
- ii.* Because she will be self-employed, the Petitioner will work in a manner that does not adversely affect U.S. workers. In addition, it would be impractical to require her to undergo a lengthy certification process because she cannot file a labor certification and job offer on her behalf. *See Exhibits 49 and 50* as evidence of the Petitioner's Articles of Organization and Limited Liability Company Agreement, _____ **SHRIMP INDUSTRY LLC.**

B. Even assuming that other qualified U.S. workers are available, the United States would still benefit from the foreign national's contributions.

- i. Additionally, the Petitioner's endeavor will have a broad and positive impact on areas of economic redevelopment. By initially establishing her company and addressing businesses located in **Wisconsin**, which has **120** designated Opportunity Zones, the Petitioner's endeavor will have a positive impact on national areas designated by law for economic redevelopment beyond supporting the competitiveness and productivity of U.S. businesses. *See Exhibit 61.*
- ii. In furtherance of her proposed endeavor, the Petitioner plans to create at least eight (8) direct U.S. jobs, as she details in her Plan for Future Activities. Moreover, she calculates the creation of more than twenty (20) indirect jobs, covering various areas such as transportation, supply of inputs and machinery, and new industries related to shrimp production. During her construction phase, she estimates that approximately thirty (30) temporary positions will be opened, including the employment provided to companies hired for the construction of ponds. Therefore, her proposed endeavor will not take away job opportunities from U.S. citizens but create additional employment opportunities within the United States. *See Exhibit 38.*

C. The national interest in the foreign national's contributions is sufficiently urgent to warrant forgoing the labor certification process.

- i. The Petitioner's endeavor to develop the U.S. shrimp production industry using a proprietary model with shrimp ponds in three-phase greenhouse systems supports the objectives of the US Marine Shrimp Farming Program (USMSFP). Her advanced aquaculture techniques enable year-round high-quality shrimp production by reusing groundwater and adapting to various climates. This approach aligns with USMSFP's goals of using SPF shrimp, promoting sustainable practices, and reducing import reliance. Her plan to diversify agricultural production in inland regions, collaborate with other producers, and share knowledge through publications and conferences further supports USMSFP's mission of technology transfer and industry growth. This endeavor will create jobs stimulate economic growth and enhance food security and environmental sustainability, addressing national interests. *See Exhibit 18.3.*
- ii. The proposed endeavor is urgent because the United States currently leads the world in shrimp imports, making the country vulnerable to international market volatility and high transport costs. By implementing a proprietary production model using three-phase greenhouse systems, the Petitioner will significantly reduce dependence on imports, enhance national food security, and provide a consistent supply of fresh, high-quality shrimp year-round. The Petitioner will take immediate action to address the growing consumer demand for healthier, protein-rich diets and to leverage advances in shrimp farming techniques that will improve yield and quality. Additionally, the endeavor will stimulate economic growth by creating new jobs and diversifying agricultural production in regions without seawater access, while promoting environmental sustainability through sustainable aquaculture practices. Permitting the Petitioner to advance this project now will capitalize on these benefits, ensuring a more resilient and self-sufficient U.S. shrimp industry. *See Exhibits 6 and 38.*
- iii. The Petitioner has the talent that the United States urgently needs pursuant to the USCIS policy's unique considerations for STEM professionals and entrepreneurs. As the holder

of an **Agricultural Animal Breeding**, the Petitioner is well-positioned to advance her proposed endeavor in the STEM field of shrimp farming. *See Exhibit 62.*

In accordance with this legal standard, the totality of the evidence demonstrates that the United States would still benefit from the Petitioner's contributions. Because she will be providing services to **innovate and promote the development of the shrimp production industry in the United States** by leveraging her expertise in the field to **increase food security, stimulate job creation, promote economic growth, and foster environmental sustainability**, the Petitioner will be working in a manner that does not adversely affect U.S. workers. In addition, it would be impractical to require her to undergo a lengthy certification process because she cannot file a labor certification and job offer on her behalf.

Just like the petitioner in the *Matter of Dhanasar*, **Petitioner** has a record of success in her specific field, particularly regarding **aquaculture and sustainable shrimp farming**, which furthers critical U.S. interests. The Petitioner has demonstrated, by a preponderance of the evidence, that her proposed endeavor has both substantial merit and national importance, and that she is well-positioned to advance her proposed endeavor. The Petitioner therefore offers contributions of such value that, even assuming other qualified U.S. workers are available, and considering that she will be self-employed, the United States will still benefit from her contributions. As such, the Petitioner satisfies the legal standard in the *Matter of Dhanasar*.

The Petitioner has demonstrated that she satisfies the Advanced Degree and National Interest Waiver criterion. Her expertise is critical to the development of _____ **SHRIMP INDUSTRY LLC**. The Petitioner's proposed endeavor will benefit the United States economically, and environmentally if she is allowed to pursue her endeavor.

Thus, we respectfully request approval of the Petition.

Sincerely,

(Attorney's Name).

Attorney at Law

Florida Bar No.

(Firm name)