

We are asking for your help to encourage your local government officials to support the

H.R. 1834 Bill - E-2 Visa Improvement Act of 2015

What is this E2 Visa that we are asking you to support -

Very basically E2 Treaty Investor Visa Holders come to live in the US, invest money in small businesses and employ US citizens. The visa does not, however, let us stay here indefinitely.

We estimate that E2 Visa Holders have collectively invested over \$40 Billion, employ nearly 1 million US citizens and their businesses turnover in excess of \$50 Billion.

We are asking the US Government to change the terms of the E2 Visa, so that we can apply for Green Cards and have a more stable future. This would lead to further investment and employment for the US, as well as 'Peace of Mind' for the visa holders.

We believe the E2 Visa is the only Non-Immigrant visa that requires you to invest a substantial amount without leading to Green Cards.

The visa must be renewed every few years, with all the cost and stress that involves.

Our personal Story

Andrew Cook & Nicholas Finnis

Joint owners of N.A.P. Hospitality LLC - 2004 until present

Business owns: The Birchwood Inn & London Tavern

340 NH Route 45, Senator Tobey Highway

Temple, NH, 03084

Immigration Status: I-94 extensions on E-2 Treaty Investor Visas

In 2004 we came to the United States of America to purchase and grow a small Country Inn in the Rural New Hampshire town of Temple.

We have struggled to renew our visas in London on two occasions as the immigration departments felt that we failed to meet the visa requirement of "the Investment is more than a marginal one solely for earning a living."

Business owners living within and drawing living costs from the everyday income of the business are not seen as earning a great deal however all their cost of living expenses are covered by the business including Mortgage payments, Utility cost, household bills and Insurance costs.

The profit within the business is shown in its dramatically increased real estate value. Valued at \$360,000.00 when purchased in 2004 it has now increased to its current valuation of \$695,000.00.

It is recognized that a good business strategizes by re-investing the profits of a business, which we did by upgrading and maintaining the structure of the building for its future continued success. Tax returns and financial reports do not highlight this profit re-allocation.

We have demonstrated that the business is a great success in many other ways.

- 1) We employ 10 part time members of staff from a rural community with very few job opportunities in the area. (their combined hours are the equivalent of two full time)
- 2) Many of our employees are young people starting out on their paths through life and we offer them guidance and encouragement with our wealth of knowledge and experience.
- 3) We provide a great service to the local community with Dining and Lodging facilities available at a very competitive price.
- 4) We provide additional revenue for the Town of Temple and the State of New Hampshire by collecting Room and Meals Taxes from our guests.
- 5) We offer a place for the people in the surrounding area to meet one another, bond and create a community.
- 6) We have two Long Term Rental properties attached to the premises providing additional income for the business and housing within the area.

An additional struggle for us was, as a same sex couple not federally recognized at the time of our 2 previous renewals, it was necessary for us to apply for two separate visas which meant our Investment of \$150,000.00 was split between the two applicants at \$75,000.00 per piece. At the time a male/female couple applying for the same immigration status would only require one visa so the investment shows as the full \$150,000.00. In addition one of the requirements of the visa was that each E2 visa holder should receive a salary from the business. This meant that two salaries were shown in our case, one for each of us. Now that same sex marriage is recognized at the federal level we could re-apply for our E-2 visa status with one applicant however at considerable cost and risk. We hope that this change in regulation will afford us the opportunity to secure a more stable future for us and our company here in the United States of America.