

Questions Regarding the Idaho-China Relationship (sent by a reader of Idaho Eagle Forum's Alerts on China's incursion into the U.S.):

1. Gov. Otter, with the help of Taiwanese businessman Raymond Ku of Westlink, has been inviting foreign investors to Idaho since Idaho's economic bottoming out in 2007 (Idaho Statesman, 8/8/2010). His plans for an economic development program have been progressing since then. "Gov. C.L. 'Butch' Otter has highlighted the EB-5 program [definition below] as a 'key' element of his effort to attract foreign investment to Idaho, as part of Project 60, his plan to grow the state's annual gross domestic product to \$60 billion from \$52 billion," (Idaho Business Review, 12/1/2009).

On his trip to China, in June of 2010, twenty Chinese citizens committed to investing \$10 million and creating 200 jobs in Idaho. In order to do this, each investor applied for an Employment-Based Immigration: Fifth Preference Visa (EB-5). Applicants invest \$1 million with an Idaho Regional Investment Center for business projects in urban areas. (Investments of \$500,000 for projects in rural or Targeted Employment Areas in Idaho, also qualify an investor for an EB-5 Visa.) Applicants must also produce 10 permanent jobs within two years. In exchange for their investments and job production, Chinese citizens forfeit their Chinese citizenship, receive a Visa or Green Card that gives them permanent U.S. residency, and in five years, gives them U.S. citizenship (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services – USCIS). In addition to the incentive of U.S. citizenship, the Idaho Global Investment Center also helps their investors "provide their children with an American education at one of the state of Idaho's finest universities"  
[Idaho Global Investment Center](#)

Is this not selling United States citizenship?

What will happen to the American workers in Idaho who will be displaced by the immigrant workers?

What guarantees that the employees of these business projects (including Sinomach) will be Idahoans and not exclusively Chinese?

Is this not an attack on the domestic Idaho workforce?

What if the immigrant workers who hold Green Cards and permanent U.S. residency decide to not get their citizenship. Will they still be allowed to draw from Social Security?

2. Why are we looking for foreign money, attracting immigrant investors (at the price of "giving away our land") instead of having local investors improving Idaho's economy?
3. Sinomach, the company owned by the Chinese government, is "looking at developing a manufacturing and warehouse zone that could one day become a **base of operations** for Chinese companies doing business in the United States," (Idaho Statesman, 12/31/2010.)

Is this not establishing a Chinese **industrial** "beachhead in the United States"?

(This phrase was used by Idaho Commerce Secretary Don Dietrich, Idaho Statesman, 6/6/2010)

Has China cloaked its military purposes in corporate and economic garb, to improve its image and be more readily received by Idahoans?

(Compare “The Year China Showed Its Claws, and China Flexes Its Soft Power, written by Chinese Communist Party expert, David Schambaugh , credentials cited in Idaho Statesman 10/25/2010, and article referred to in “A Quiet Night in Beijing”, Idaho Statesman, 6/10/10.)

What prevents the Chinese from bringing military equipment and/or forces into a Federal Trade Zone, which is what Sinomach would be?

4. Don Dietrich, director of the Idaho Department of Commerce, said, “It just isn’t possible to develop Little China in Idaho. U.S labor laws don’t allow it,” (Idaho Statesman, 6/26/2011).

What are the specific laws that will protect Idaho from having that happen?

Wasn’t there already legislative changes made to accommodate Sinomach traffic at the Boise Airport?

What laws are there that would exclude China from buying Idaho’s strategic minerals?

5. Don Dietrich said, “People have to understand this [referring to investment from China and other foreign countries] goes directly into Idaho projects.”

How much of the investment money will actually go into the “Idaho projects” after percentages have been paid to the Regional Investment Centers and other middlemen in the EB-5 program?

What specific “Idaho projects” will their money go into?

Comment: I am very interested in the economic growth of Idaho. I think there are ways that involve the ingenuity, hard work and loyalty of Idahoans for this to be accomplished. I am not a conspiracy theorist, just someone who reads the newspaper and tries to fit things together. My questions come from when it seems that the facts haven’t been fully disclosed or actions taken don’t seem logical to me. I have more questions if you’d like to hear them.