
ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE

June 25, 2024

USCIS, Attn: I-140 (Box 660128)
2501 S. State Highway 121 Business
Suite 400
Lewisville, TX 75067-8003

To whom it may concern:

I am delighted to provide this letter of support as a testament to the significance of the research being conducted by Sergio Barbosa Casas, Ph.D., which resulted in his selection from among over 100 applicants to join the competitive Climate Fellows Postdoctoral Program at the University of Virginia.

After advertising nationally through the official portal of the University of Virginia and at least twenty-five external affiliated recruitment websites for 6 months, the Climate Fellows Postdoctoral Program attracted some 127 PhD holders from across the United States and four (4) other continents from later 2022 to early 2023. This program was created by the University to attract and train recently graduated PhD scientists in relevant Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields to advance cutting-edge climate change and climate resilience research. Trainees are assigned to work on various projects at the university aimed at advancing these research priorities.

Due to his evident expertise, Dr. Barbosa Casas was highly ranked by the University of Virginia faculty we assigned to assess candidates vying to join the Climate Fellows program. He emerged as the best candidate among those shortlisted for his currently assigned project after two rounds of interviews, the first of which comprised an oral assessment of his topical knowledge and interdisciplinary research skills; the second-round interview involved a research presentation and a question-and-answer session with the faculty and associated members of the lab with which he currently works at the university.

Having emerged as one of only 6 to have eventually joined the Climate Fellows Program cohort in 2023 to work on five interconnected university projects, Dr. Barbosa Casas was selected due to his noticeable expertise in the field of hydro-informatics and pursuit of research aimed at advancing knowledge frontiers in this field as it relates Climate Change in the United States and beyond. As a trainee, Dr. Barbosa Casas continues to utilize advanced modeling techniques to assess remote sensing data and create comprehensive hydrological and hydrogeological assessments to advance our understanding of groundwater resource dynamics. Alongside his faculty mentors and lab mates, his work is expected to make significant contributions to climate science at the global as well as local levels.

We are by this letter expressing our support for Dr. Barbosa's personal pursuit of permanent residency by way of the EB-2 National Interest Waiver application. While the university is sponsoring his employment-based (H-1B) visa, we have no plans of pursuing permanent residency on his behalf. Thanks for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Karen McGlathery
Director, Environmental Institute, UVA