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United States Citizenship and Immigration Services  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

RE: Advisory Opinion of Pathfinder Aviation, Inc.

Dear Immigration Officer:

I am the President of the helicopter operator elected for the aerial dispersal of rat bait on Rat Island in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. Pathfinder Aviation is a Federal Aviation Association (FAA) Part 133, 135, and 137 certified air carrier operating Bell 206 series helicopters. We currently operate four Bell 206 series helicopters from a facility located on the Homer Airport in Homer, Alaska. Our company has a history of working in remote regions and out-bases throughout the state of Alaska. Pathfinder Aviation specializes in providing helicopter services to a variety of industries, including mining, oil, forestry, and state and federal governments, and are capable of meeting the challenges related to remote helicopter operations. Our company provides a unique combination of aircraft and personnel that maintain the highest standard of safety possible. Our pilots are certified by the Aviation Management Division (AMD), average in excess of 10,000 flight hours each, and have extensive experience operation in the remote and challenging environments of Alaska.

I have been asked to provide an advisory opinion in regard to Peter Garden's O-1 petition. I seek approval of O-1 status so that he may be employed in the U.S.

We have reviewed Peter Garden's credentials and history, and can confirm that he has reached a level of extraordinary ability in his field. In fact, at this time we are not aware of any pilots in the United States who have a similar level of skill and expertise in this area.

In October 2008 a rat eradication will be attempted on Rat Island to protect native island species from rat predation. The eradication will occur using an aerial broadcast of pelletized bait containing rodenticide across the entire island. Peter Garden will be working in collaboration with Pathfinder Aviation to conduct the aerial dispersal of rat bait on the island. Pathfinder Aviation, with their established history and experience operating remotely in Alaska, will provide the pilots, aircraft, and regional knowledge required to position the helicopters from Homer, Alaska to Rat Island, 1300 miles west. Peter Garden will operate the aircraft for the bait dispersal using specialized parallel flight navigation and bait spreader bucket equipment. The aerial baiting expertise of Peter Garden, of which is unparalleled within the U.S., is necessary is to ensure that bait is accurately and effectively applied to Rat Island.

In order to protect native species within the United States from threats by introduced predators there is an immediate need for pilots specializing in aerial dispersal operations. Peter Garden will work one-on-one to provide aerial dispersal training and instruction to Pathfinder Aviation pilots. This instruction will allow Pathfinder Aviation pilots to conduct this type of conservation work in the future.

We, therefore, have no objection to the granting of an O-1 visa for Peter Garden.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W Fell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael W Fell  
President