

**From:** Kunin, Lisa [Lisa.Kunin@vermont.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 07, 2013 9:01 AM  
**To:** Raymond, Brent  
**Subject:** Governor's letters & release re. immigration  
**Attachments:** SGOV-Copier13110708460.pdf

Brent,  
Attached are scanned copies of the Governor's letters and press releases related to immigration matters. I believe much of this came through you, so I'm not sure how helpful it may be. I did not include information on the migrant IDs as we do not feel they are applicable to the event at the NECBC.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Lisa



**Governor Peter Shumlin**  
State of Vermont

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## GOV. PETER SHUMLIN ISSUED A STATEMENT TODAY URGING THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO APPROVE COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

July 18, 2013 - MONTPELIER - Gov. Shumlin issued the following statement:

"This week I joined 14 other Governors in urging the House leadership to approve common sense immigration reform that will help stimulate the U.S. economy, provide farmers in Vermont and other rural states with the workforce they need to continue to feed the nation, and establish a carefully constructed path to earned citizenship, while also ensuring border security.

We are fortunate in Vermont to have a Congressional delegation that supports these objectives and is working hard to find a bipartisan solution to this critical problem. I also join my fellow Governors in thanking the President for his leadership on this issue.

The Senate passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill, and now the House should move quickly to adopt bipartisan immigration reform legislation that reflects the values of our nation and contributes to our economic growth."

To see the Governor's letter, click [here](#).

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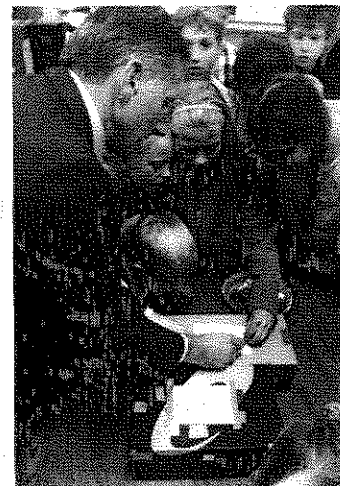


**Peter Shumlin**

@GovPeterShumlin

1h

Excited for today's Early Childhood Summit in #Montpelier #VT where educators will gather to discuss our progress  
[pic.twitter.com/dnChR5mYH](http://pic.twitter.com/dnChR5mYH)



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July 17, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi,

We are writing to add our names to the growing list of civic leaders who support commonsense immigration reform. Now that the Senate has done its work, the House of Representatives should act without delay to pass similar legislation so that we can begin to build an immigration system that reflects our nation's values and strengthens our economies.

As reflected by the strong vote in the Senate, there is widespread support for an immigration bill that provides a fair, realistic pathway to earned citizenship for undocumented individuals currently in our country while, at the same time, securing our border. Recognizing that with rights come responsibilities, we agree that individuals who wish to take advantage of this pathway must first pay taxes and a penalty. They are reasonable requirements to ensure that everyone plays by the same rules in order to access the opportunities our nation has to offer. At the same time, however, this pathway must not be impassable. We should avoid and reject any requirements that litter the pathway with insurmountable obstacles.

We support replacing the H-2A agricultural "guest worker" visa program with a new program to ensure farmers have the labor force they require to meet the growing need.

Agriculture is one of the backbones of our country's economy. Many of our farms, especially small family farms, will go out of business unless they are given access to a reliable workforce.

We also support an immigration plan that provides visas to foreign graduate students in science and math who came to this country for an education. Our nation and states work hard to attract these talented students. We should give them the opportunity to stay so that they can contribute to our economies and access the American dream. In addition, we encourage you to increase STEM education funding to states to augment our efforts to meet the long-term need for high-skilled labor.

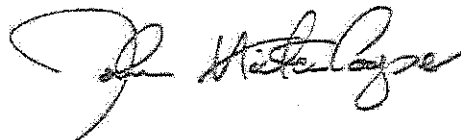
Finally, this is not only the right policy for our nation, it also makes sense economically, as noted by the Congressional Budget Office's report that the bill would decrease the federal deficit by \$175B over ten years after enactment. Given the clear benefit to the federal budget and mindful of the constraints on our state budgets, we are hopeful that any immigration reform plan avoids shifting unduly burdensome costs to the states.

We all recognize that immigrants contribute a great deal to our economy and our culture. We should make sure they are fully integrated into the social, civic and economic fabric of American life and have access to the same opportunities to succeed as everyone else. As Governors, we encourage you to adopt bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform legislation that reflects the values of our nation and contributes to the growth of our economies.

Sincerely,



Governor Mike Beebe  
State of Arkansas



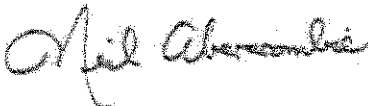
Governor John Hickenlooper  
State of Colorado



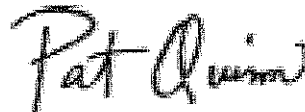
Governor Dannel P. Malloy  
State of Connecticut



Governor Jack Markell  
State of Delaware



Governor Neil Abercrombie  
State of Hawaii



Governor Pat Quinn  
State of Illinois



Governor Steve Beshear  
Commonwealth of Kentucky



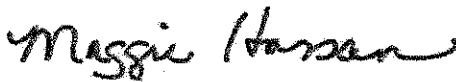
Governor Martin O'Malley  
State of Maryland



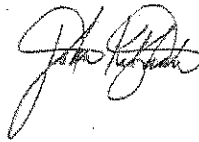
Governor Deval Patrick  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



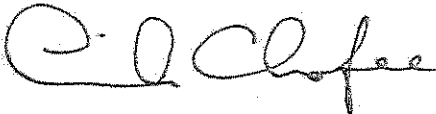
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State of Minnesota




Governor Margaret Hassan  
State of New Hampshire




Governor John Kitzhaber  
State of Oregon



Governor Lincoln Chafee  
State of Rhode Island



Governor Peter Shumlin  
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## GOV. SHUMLIN URGES PRESIDENT OBAMA, CONGRESS TO ENACT IMMIGRATION REFORM

April 11 - 3:35 p.m. - Gov. Peter Shumlin this week applauded President Barack Obama and Vermont's Congressional delegation for their leadership in offering a common sense immigration proposal to expand the middle class and strengthen our nation's economy. In a letter to the President, Gov. Shumlin urged bipartisan cooperation to find workable solutions to our broken system. Gov. Shumlin noted that, while immigration is a responsibility of the federal government, it has a significant impact on states and local communities.

"For years, the federal government has failed to address the broken immigration system and left our communities and states to deal with the effects," said the Governor. "America's current immigration system harms our economy and does not reflect our values as a nation. The federal government's failure to enact immigration reform has created severe economic, cultural, fiscal and political strains in communities across America."

The Governor said that immigration reform should be comprehensive and aim to improve our economy while ensuring dignified integration of immigrants.

"Immigration reform requires a solution that promotes the reunification of families, provides legal status to undocumented individuals with a path to earned citizenship, addresses current and future worker demands, provides due process and civil liberty protections, and encourages integration," added Gov. Shumlin. "In Vermont, guest workers are critical to our dairy industry, and we must ensure that they continue to contribute to our rural economic development."

Gov. Shumlin also noted that public support for smart, accountable immigration reform is at an all-time high. "There is no time for partisan games; the American people deserve a real and lasting solution. With the leadership of President Obama, Senator Leahy, Senator Sanders, and Congressman Welch, that solution is within reach."

The full text of the Governor's letter is available [here](#).

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**Peter Shumlin**  
@GovPeterShumlin

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Excited for today's Early Childhood Summit in #Montpelier #VT where educators will gather to discuss our progress  
[pic.twitter.com/dnChR5mYH](http://pic.twitter.com/dnChR5mYH)



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PETER SHUMLIN  
Governor



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 5, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to applaud your leadership in offering a bold, common sense immigration plan that would expand the middle class and strengthen our nation's economy. Now is the time to reform our nation's immigration system to benefit all Americans, so that together we can prosper as a nation.

For years, the federal government has failed to address the broken immigration system and left our communities and states to deal with the effects. America's current immigration system harms our economy and does not reflect our values as a nation. The federal government's inability to enact immigration reform has created severe economic, cultural, fiscal and political strains in communities across America.

Public support for smart, accountable reform is at an all-time high. There is no time for partisan games; the American people want and deserve a real and lasting solution. With your leadership, that solution is within reach.

As you know, immigration is a federal responsibility that requires a common sense federal solution that promotes the reunification of families, provides legal status to undocumented individuals with a path to earned citizenship, addresses current and future worker demands, provides due process and civil liberty protections, and encourages immigrant integration. Legislation must also support the full integration of newcomers by providing immigrants with the tools necessary for meaningful citizenship and opportunities to move up the economic ladder.

Our state is counting on Congress to work together across party lines to find workable solutions to our broken system, and I thank you, as well as Vermont's extraordinary Congressional delegation, for your commitment to a plan that would grow our economy, raise wages and labor protections for all workers, and strengthen our families and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter Shumlin  
Governor

PETER SHUMLIN  
Governor



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 30, 2013

Thomas S. Winkowski  
Deputy Commissioner  
Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20229

Re: Request for CBP Services at Newport State Airport

Dear Deputy Commissioner Winkowski,

The State of Vermont formally requests that U. S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) extend the limits of the Derby Line Port of Entry (POE) to include Newport State Airport in Coventry, Vermont and provide this airport with federally funded U. S. Customs services.

Federally funded U. S. Customs services are necessary and viable at Newport State Airport for several important reasons:

- The Northeastern Vermont Development Association recently received approval for the establishment of a new general-purpose Foreign Trade Zone that includes the Newport State Airport, which serves a region of Vermont known as the Northeast Kingdom.
- Casey Owen Durst, CBP's Area Port Director in St. Albans, Vermont, has indicated that CBP would have no difficulties overseeing the zone (see attached letter dated June 29, 2012). Newport State Airport is approximately 14 miles from the Derby Line, Vermont POE, so staffing the facility will not be inconvenient.
- Jay Peak Ski Area has had success in investing substantial immigrant investment dollars through the EB-5 program and anticipates investing approximately \$500 million in the Northeast Kingdom over the next several years. Having an international landing facility in the Newport, Vermont area is key to this economic development plan.

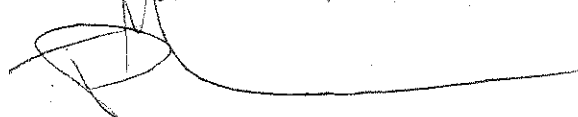


- As part of the ongoing development of the Newport State Airport, the Vermont Agency of Transportation is committed to constructing the appropriate CBP General Aviation Facilities in accordance with the CBP's Airport Technical Design Standards, at no cost to the agency.
- The Vermont Agency of Transportation has already brought fiber-optic communications facilities to the Airport and reconstructed Airport Road in anticipation of the need to support new CBP facilities.

Convenient access from the Province of Quebec and eastern Canada to the Northeast Kingdom is critical to the continued economic resurgence of this bi-national region. The Derby Line POE on Interstate 91 provides direct access to the State for vehicles and truck-born cargo, and is in close proximity to the airport. Allowing international flights to enter the United States at Newport State Airport is the next critical step to support the economic growth and development of this region.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Secretary of Transportation Brian Searles as you consider our request.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Shumlin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Shumlin  
Governor

Cc: Senator Patrick J. Leahy  
Senator Bernard Sanders  
Congressman Peter Welch  
Brian R. Searles, Secretary-VTrans

PS/AR

PETER SHUMLIN  
Governor



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 29, 2013

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano,

I am writing regarding efforts by the Toronto Port Authority to reopen discussions with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on the establishment of a central pre-clearance facility at the Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. I understand that Vermont's Congressional Delegation also has contacted you regarding this matter.

Vermont's economy is heavily dependent on trade and tourism with Canada. I believe the Toronto Port Authority's interest in establishing a second pre-clearance facility at the Toronto City Airport would encourage the expansion of direct air service between Toronto, Burlington and other mid-sized airports in the U.S. This growth would strengthen Vermont's economy and forge closer ties between Canada and the United States.

As you may know, Vermont is in the second year of a four-year partnership with Porter Airlines, offering seasonal service from downtown Toronto to Vermont's Burlington International Airport. This service turns a long, eight-plus hour drive to Toronto – Canada's economic engine and gateway to the world – into a short flight from Burlington, Vermont. The establishment of a pre-clearance facility at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport would alleviate staffing demands and budget pressures on the CBP while addressing increased business and tourism demands.

Thank you for your consideration of a central pre-clearance facility at the Toronto City Airport, and our efforts to strengthen Vermont's relationship with our most important trading partner. I welcome the opportunity to assist in the effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Peter Shumlin in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin  
Governor

cc.: Senator Patrick Leahy  
Senator Bernie Sanders  
Congressman Peter Welch

PETER SHUMLIN  
Governor



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 15, 2013

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Senate Pro Tem  
437 Russell Senate Bldg  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy,

Thank you for your continued leadership on the issues impacting the State of Vermont. I am especially appreciative of your leadership on S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, and I am writing to inform you of my strong support for two specific reform elements you have proposed to improve the quality of the EB-5 Visa Program.

First, I understand that one of the most important amendments calls for the program to be made permanent. This is vital for the health of the national program, as well as for Vermont. As the only state that owns, operates and directly supervises a USCIS approved EB-5 regional center, Vermont has been able to offer businesses unique advantages and has been incredibly successful in developing businesses, creating jobs and strengthening the state's economy.

With over \$700 million of investment underway or planned in Vermont, the permanent authorization is crucial to the projects and job creation. Your amendment to permanently authorize the EB-5 Program would help ensure these projects are completed and thousands of jobs are created.

Second, as elected leaders of one of the most rural states in the nation, you and I understand the challenges Vermont faces when competing with urban projects. Despite the fact that the Regional Center Pilot Project was in part designed to give an economic advantage to rural communities, many urban projects have been allowed to gain Regional Center Pilot Project status. I am fully supportive of requiring projects to meet the rural requirement in order to be characterized as an EB-5 Project with the lesser \$500,000 investment. I cannot state strongly enough how critical this is to Vermont's continued success.

Thank you for your efforts to improve this program that has been so vital to Vermont's economic development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Peter Shumlin in black ink.

Peter Shumlin  
Governor

*Thank you!  
So much  
P*

PETER SHUMLIN  
Governor



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 24, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders,

Thank you all for your continued leadership in working with the State International Development Organizations (SIDO) and the Council of State Governments (CSG) to ensure the success of the **State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP)** grant program (Section 1207 of the 2010 Small Business Jobs Act). As you know, the program was initially authorized for three years (2011 – 2014) and appropriated for two years (2011 – 2013). I strongly support full appropriation for STEP year three, reauthorization of the program beyond 2014, and procedural review to fix SBA administration of the program to provide the best return to taxpayers with minimal procedural delays.

STEP is an important program that has aligned federal, state, and other economic development partners together to boost exports - but most importantly, it has positioned state trade offices to positively impact the nation's small businesses by enhancing the export assistance services they receive. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, 48% of all U.S. economic growth in 2012 was attributed to exports. We must continue to work together to increase exports.

Since 2011, the STEP program has provided \$30 million annually to state trade offices to directly assist small and medium sized enterprises enter and expand into new export markets. Vermont has directly benefitted from the program, having received \$576,000 over the first two years. The Vermont Global Trade Partnership has partnered with the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Vermont Tourism, U.S. Department of Commerce and other New England states to provide low cost but highly effective export support services. This new dynamic program has led to Vermont's rural businesses obtaining access to resources in a cooperative fashion never before available to them.

Over 95% of Vermont's businesses are categorized as small businesses. Our small but entrepreneurial companies are competing globally with foreign countries' businesses who receive significantly more government assistance. The STEP program has already provided results - a company exporting to China, and another expecting to sign a \$2,000,000 contract within the next couple weeks are but two of the successes.

According to a 2006 World Bank study, the global return on investment for each dollar spent on export promotion is 40:1. Across the board, states are experiencing that same success, with several of the more advanced and financially supported programs seeing upwards of 90:1 returns on investment.

Full appropriation and reauthorization of the program will ensure continued growth in the nation's global competitiveness and, most importantly, create sustainable jobs in America. The STEP program will be key in supporting exports as China's economy continues to show signs of slowing, more European Union countries enter recession, and the U.K. continues to struggle.

I strongly encourage you to support this vital and effective grant program. Please feel free to contact Brent Raymond, Director, Vermont Global Trade Partnership at [Brent.Raymond@State.VT.us](mailto:Brent.Raymond@State.VT.us), or SIDO's Executive Director, Sasha Sutcliffe-Stephenson ([ssutcliffe@csg.org](mailto:ssutcliffe@csg.org)) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Peter Shumlin  
Governor of Vermont

Cc: The Honorable Patrick Leahy, United States Senate  
The Honorable Bernard Sanders, United States Senate  
The Honorable Peter Welch, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair  
The Honorable Richard Shelby, Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member  
The Honorable Mary Landrieu, Senate Small Business Committee Chair  
The Honorable Jim Risch, Senate Small Business Committee Ranking Member  
The Honorable Hal Rogers, House Appropriations Committee Chair  
The Honorable Nita Lowey, House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member  
The Honorable Sam Graves, House Small Business Committee Chairman  
The Honorable Nydia Velasquez, House Small Business Committee Ranking Member

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4502

March 20, 2013

Mr. James Myers  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Seldon Technologies  
31 Depot Avenue, Door 18  
Windsor, VT 05089

Dear Mr. Myers:

We write in anticipation of your upcoming visit to Seldon Technologies and your board's discussion about the future of this important piece of Vermont's green technology economy. As you discuss future growth plans for the company, we wish to offer our continued assistance helping you grow in Windsor.

Vermont believes in Seldon Technologies. Senator Leahy has worked to secure nearly \$20 million in research and development contracts for Seldon with various offices of the U.S. Department of Defense. The State of Vermont has approved a \$10 million EB-5 Regional Center project to turn this research into manufacturing. And the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive program has approved a cash incentive for Seldon to create jobs in Windsor. We remain committed to helping Seldon manufacture and deliver water filtration products to both domestic and international customers from here in Vermont.

We understand that the most promising markets for water filtration devices are abroad. And we understand your company needs to identify additional working capital to get your product from Windsor to these markets. To that end, we would appreciate the opportunity to convene a meeting between you and economic development experts here in Vermont to discuss Vermont economic development tools – especially financing tools – that might help you grow in Windsor.

Our staffs have identified several financing products, including the Working Capital Guarantee Program at the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the Small Business Administration's Export Loan Programs, and the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies' Early Stage Venture Capital Fund, that might provide Seldon with the capital it needs to grow. Representatives of these programs, as well as the Vermont Global Trade Partnership and the Vermont Procurement Technical Assistance Center, would be invited to our proposed meeting.

We look forward to helping you grow here in Vermont. Should you wish to discuss these issues, please feel free to contact us directly or to contact Ted Brady in Senator Leahy's Office at (802) 863-2512, Kiersten Bourgeois of the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development at (802) 828-5220, or Bob Flint of the Springfield Regional Development Corporation at (802) 885-3061.

Sincerely,



PETER SHUMLIN  
Governor, State of Vermont



PATRICK LEAHY  
United States Senate



**Governor Peter Shumlin**  
State of Vermont

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## LEARNING ABOUT THE EB-5 PROGRAM

Wednesday, November 16 - 7:30 a.m. - Today, Governor Shumlin is returning from Miami, where he was encouraging economic growth in Vermont through the EB-5 program. This had some folks asking, what is the EB-5 program? Here are some answers.

The EB-5 Program (Employment Based Immigration) was created by Congress in 1990 to stimulate the U.S. economy through foreign investment. Maintained through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), all EB-5 investors must be investing in a new commercial enterprise.

Then, if an investor devotes at least \$500,000.00 to an approved project in Vermont, they will receive a greencard in return. This EB-5 Project must foster 10 full-time jobs for two years.

Since 1997, the EB-5 Program has already brought in over \$200 million in Vermont through multiple projects including the Trapp Family Lodge, Jay Peak and AFcell.

Want to learn more about EB-5? Look [here](#).

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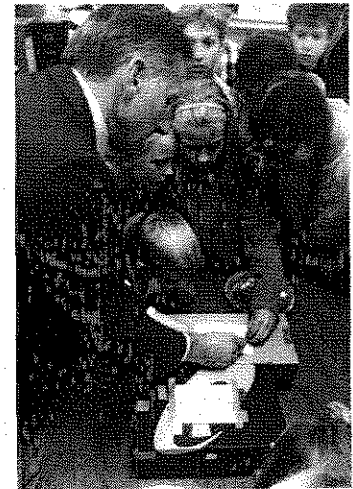
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Excited for today's Early Childhood Summit in #Montpelier #VT where educators will gather to discuss our progress  
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