



Perspectives

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

In the 1992 campaign for the White House, someone hung a sign in the Clinton for President war room stating: "It's the economy, stupid!"

That simple slogan became the rallying cry of the campaign, and it carried our 42nd president to victory.

Today, with debate on immigration reform being waged across the land, it seems an appropriate and equally straightforward message would be: "It's the population, stupid!"

Without question, there are countless facets to today's immigration debate. But one major factor that is not getting the attention it deserves is how any number of short-sighted decisions could totally skew the dynamics of our country's future population growth.

Current Census Bureau projections show that the U.S. population will reach 400 million just after 2050 – an increase of 85 million people in less than 40 years! If we continue the recent trend of liberalizing our immigration policies, these projections could rise dramatically, creating even more social, economic, and environmental havoc in the decades to come.

In witnessing today's debate on future immigration policies, it is clear that a wide variety of powerful groups are investing huge sums of money in lobbyists to make sure their special interests are protected.

We're counting on our tens of thousands of members and supporters to bring us victory. Our greatest strength is your commitment to remaining vocal and active, ensuring that all Senators and Representatives in Congress stand up to the open-border lobby. We're continuing to recruit as many Americans as possible to work with us in advocating for reforms that will tighten our immigration laws in every way possible. In doing so, our goal is to serve only one interest – the national interest.

America's future cannot afford for Congress to go down the wrong path and pass a major new immigration law that's rife with

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NO MORE SEMANTICS

Unfortunately, NPG's hopes for dispassionate Congressional debate on immigration reform hit a snag at its very beginning.

At the House Judiciary Committee's first hearings on rewriting our nation's immigration laws, Congressman John Conyers (D-MI), the Ranking Minority Member, noted:

"I hope no one uses the term illegal immigrants here today. Our citizens are not – the people in this country are not illegal. They are out of status. They are new Americans that are immigrants."

When Congress begins a major discussion on such a critical issue with an immediate play for semantics is there much hope for objectivity or for rational and responsible new immigration rules to emerge? NPG considers this issue far too critical for such distractions. Whether their arrival was illegal or they have remained beyond a visa's expiration, the individuals in question have committed a crime. The focus of this debate should not be what words to use, but rather what actions to take to remedy this crisis.

WHICH NATIONAL POLLS ARE RIGHT ABOUT IMMIGRATION REFORM?

In recent years, the power of national polls to not only measure – but influence – public opinion has grown significantly. Often, especially on controversial issues, huge numbers of Americans want to be on the "winning" side.

Recently, two national polls on immigration reform appeared within 24 hours of each other and received widespread national publicity.

Citing their latest results from a *Reuters/Ipsos* poll which surveyed 1,443 Americans over the age of 18, a recent headline in *Reuters.com* stated: "Majority of U.S. citizens say illegal immigrants should be deported." The story went on to reveal that "Only 5 percent believe all illegal immigrants should be allowed to stay in the United States legally."

The very next day, *USA TODAY* carried a front page story citing the findings of a *USA TODAY/Pew Research Center* poll of 1,504 adults taken over the same time period: "By a wide margin, 50%-33%, Obama's approach to immigration is preferred over the GOP, and the president has seen his approval rating on handling immigration surge."

The glaring contrast between these polls underscores the fact that the way a pollster fashions a question and reports the results can very much skew how the public sees the issue. Such inconsistency also reminds us that we can't let the national polls drive this important debate.

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loopholes.

If that happens, we will create an immigration system that opens the door to millions of additional people that our nation is ill-prepared to accommodate – and cannot sustain. Our children and grandchildren will bear the burden of paying for the social, economic, and environmental damage such reckless new immigration laws would inflict on our country.

NPG wasted no opportunity to make our members' voices heard. On the first day of immigration reform hearings, NPG submitted testimony to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. (See copy of full testimony enclosed with this newsletter.)

As you review this testimony, you will see that NPG makes the case to Congress that we are 100% against amnesty/citizenship for illegal aliens. In addition, we ask Congress to make stronger borders a centerpiece of any reform. Also, speaking for NPG's tens of thousands of members and supporters, we call for stronger enforcement of current immigration laws; mandatory E-Verify to become the law of the land; limits on chain migration; implementation of a workable check-in/check-out system for foreign visitors and students; illegal presence in the U.S. to be made a misdemeanor offense; and for new rules on "anchor babies" to be put in place.

A key provision of NPG's testimony to Congress is that we must significantly scale back the number of legal immigrants permitted to enter the U.S. annually. We cannot make progress if we tighten the rules on illegal entry to our country, while allowing hundreds of thousands of additional legal immigrants to enter the U.S. each year. Any new policy which greatly increases legal immigration will only impede progress toward reversing population growth.

In all, I look at the current national discussion on immigration reform as a chance for our nation to take some giant steps toward responsibility on population growth. However, we must make sure they are steps forward, not backward.

NPG will continue to keep our membership up to date on every aspect of this important debate. We urge members to vigorously raise their voices to make sure Congress doesn't produce a new immigration bill that will be more harmful than helpful to America's future.

I believe that "It's the population, stupid!" is a powerful slogan to take into any discussion on immigration. These four simple words take the immigration argument beyond today's divisive language and tactics that are pitting citizen against citizen. In the end, all Americans must understand that there are definite limits to how many people our nation can sustain.

TAKE OUR SHORT SURVEY AND SPEAK YOUR MIND AT www.NPG.org.

With Congress under pressure to enact comprehensive immigration reform in a hurry, the ever-changing situation in Washington has become a massive tug-of-war. At some point each side gains an advantage, then loses it. In the end, one side tires out and the other declares victory.

NPG is proud to be on the front lines of the fight to create responsible immigration laws that will serve our nation for decades to come. While we have already set forth what we would like to see in the final legislation, the dynamics of this national debate will change constantly over the coming weeks. In this critical period, it is important that we hear from you.

For the first time ever, we've set up a member **Survey and Feedback Page** on our website, www.NPG.org. We urge you to access it and participate today!

The questions on this Survey are not the same basic immigration questions which have appeared in national polls for months – they are designed to gather your input on NPG's strategies in this battle.

Your answers are important to us. In addition to asking these questions, we've provided a chance for you to share your opinions on the issues which are so important to our shared future.

Please take a few moments to visit www.NPG.org and join in this effort. Your involvement and interest in this tug-of-war will give our side the ongoing strength to ensure we don't drop the rope!

EXTRA COPIES OF THE BEST OF NPG BOOKLETS AVAILABLE:

After distributing thousands of copies of the recently published *The Best of NPG* to our members in January, we've received quite a bit of positive feedback. This easy-to-read, 60-page booklet is a compilation of key excerpts from NPG Forum papers, the *NPG Journal*, NPG Student Fact Sheets, as well as newsletters and other NPG materials. It serves as an excellent introduction to the many facets of our work to date – and provides insight into the challenges we face as we continue to take our message to the American public. With your generous contribution of at least \$20 today, we will gladly send you up to 5 booklets to share with family and friends.

NPG AT DALLAS EARTH DAY EVENT!

At the invitation of a dedicated NPG member in Dallas, Texas, NPG Executive Vice President Craig Lewis and Deputy Director Tracy Canada will travel to the Lone Star State next month to represent NPG at Earth Day Dallas. Scheduled for April 20th and 21st, this event is held each year in conjunction with Earth Day and has traditionally attracted tens of thousands of attendees. This exciting environmental festival should be a valuable forum for distributing NPG's educational materials and enlisting new members. NPG invites any of our members and supporters in the Dallas Metro area to attend.

CONTACT NPG FOR YOUR EARTH DAY PACKETS NOW!

The first Earth Day in 1970 planted the seeds for the inception of Negative Population Growth in 1972. 41 years later, we are proud to serve as America's premier organization working to alert all Americans to the critical need for our nation and world to slow, halt, and eventually reverse population growth before it is too late. Today, we count on NPG members nationwide to partner with us in spreading that important message. Earth Day activities – both large and small – in communities across the country provide the perfect forum. If you would like to receive an NPG Earth Day Packet with valuable educational material to distribute at an event near you, please call us today (703-370-9510) to ensure timely delivery. Thank you!

HOW MUCH SHOULD WE WORRY ABOUT “FRACKING?”

A huge divide is developing across America as citizens are choosing sides on the use of hydraulic fracking to extract huge quantities of oil and gas.

If you live in a state where the push is on to embrace fracking as a means to greatly increase output of fossil fuels, you are probably well aware of the pros and cons being advanced by industrial and environmental groups. If the debate over this heated issue is new to you, then it is important to pay attention to how this scenario unfolds as the decisions on its future will eventually impact all Americans.

On the one hand, greatly expanding the use of fracking is naively hailed as a “magic bullet” with the potential to make America totally energy independent (and turn us into a major fossil fuel exporter) within a decade. Opponents of this process – which can cause major environmental damage – hold that it is important to put the brakes on fracking now before it gets too far out of control.

NPG's concerns over America's quick embrace of fracking have prompted us to take an ad in a forthcoming issue of *E-Magazine* with the headline: **TOO LITTLE GAIN, TOO GREAT A LOSS**. In it we state:

There has been increasing pressure on political leaders to authorize the use of hydraulic fracking in an effort to expand gas and oil production. Technological optimists are hailing it as the answer to a global decline in fossil energy production. “Pro-growth” advocates are celebrating the prospect of continuing the status quo for a few more years, deferring the sacrifices of shifting to a more sustainable way of life. However, delay is not victory.

Fracking has proven a significant disappointment – another example of the depletion of resources with a very limited return. It uses a huge volume of water per well, a short-sighted strategy in an era of growing water scarcities. It holds the potential for major pollution, further contaminating our fragile air and water resources. And its projected results are wholly inadequate – experts say it would not delay America's energy crisis by more than a few decades.

NPG is proud to stand with U.S. environmental leaders working to protect natural resources, local communities, and public health. To proceed with fracking would be a huge setback to America's environmental efforts, and it poses a genuine threat to our nation's future. We cannot allow policy makers to endorse fracking based on political pressure from special interest lobbies.

One of the primary causes of America's natural resource shortage is overpopulation. More people mean more cars, buses, and trains are needed. More housing must be built, which requires additional power and water. NPG has worked for over 40 years to educate American citizens and legislators regarding the damaging effects of population growth. Fracking, a dangerous “quick fix” to one of the many problems caused by overpopulation, is not the solution.

Our nation's leaders must be extremely cautious in their consideration of fracking. There is a definite need for more thorough study of the potential environmental and social consequences it may yield. Together, we bear the responsibility to weigh how these decisions will impact future generations. Don't be silent on this critical issue! NPG encourages all Americans to contact their local, state, and federal officials and make their voices heard.

In December 2011, NPG released an 8-page Forum paper by Lindsey Grant titled “Is Fracking An Answer? To What?” We recommend it as a valuable source in understanding this issue. Today, NPG calls on our members to get involved in this debate – especially if leaders in your state are ready to move. Contact your local, state, and federal officials and make your views heard.

Note: NPG Forum papers and advertisements are available on our website: www.NPG.org.

QUOTABLE

"If we waste this opportunity [to address climate change], it may be the only thing our generation – generations – are remembered for. We need to find the courage to leave a far different legacy."

Secretary of State John Kerry
Speaking on Climate Change

"You want 'comprehensive immigration reform'? Start with reliable adjudications, fully cleared backlogs, consistent interior enforcement, working background checks for the existing caseload, and efficient and effective deportation policies that punish law-breakers and do right by law-abiders... And please don't pretend that piling millions of new illegal aliens onto an already overwhelmed system is going to fix a darned thing."

Michelle Malkin
National Columnist

"... Illegal immigration is to some people a great humanitarian cause... but what's really keeping it going is cheap labor."

Dick Lamm
Former Colorado Governor

HELP LEAVE A LIVABLE WORLD TO OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

PLEASE CONSIDER A BEQUEST TO NPG

NPG makes available, free of charge, a booklet entitled *Making Your Will: What You Should Know Before You See Your Lawyer*. If you would like to receive a copy, please check the appropriate box on the enclosed reply.

A NEW TUTORIAL ON WIND FARMS

At the end of 2012, the European market boasted 55 offshore wind farms and the U.S. had absolutely none. The question arises: "What's the holdup?"

There are a wide variety of answers to that inquiry. However, many are cleared up by *Cleantechnica.com*'s new report, titled "Where Do I Put My Offshore Wind Farm?," a two-page synopsis on the present status of wind farms in the U.S. as a source of alternative energy.

This short analysis links readers to a vast wealth of information on this emerging industry and touches on such diverse issues as initial funding, siting, wind speeds, water depths, federal vs. state waters, transmission lines, hurricane risk, and public opinion.

Ironically, the political factor is not highlighted in this assessment. With new drive for America to invest in energy independence, it seems that future development of offshore wind farms has the solid political support of many governors – especially those on the East Coast

The Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management recently announced the release of \$168 million in funding for offshore development. According to *Cleantechnica*, the states that will share in these funds include Texas, New Jersey, Ohio (Lake Erie), Oregon, Maine, and Virginia.

Read the full report at www.cleantechnica.com.

NPG ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

NPG is proud to announce our 8th year of offering students the opportunity to compete in our Essay Scholarship Contest.

This contest is open to all high school seniors, as well as college freshmen, sophomores and juniors in an undergraduate program. We urge NPG members and supporters to spread the news about this competition to their family and friends.

We will award six prizes ranging from \$2,500 to \$1,000. This year's topic is: *Explain how population growth has negatively affected your community. What solutions do you propose to ensure a decent quality of life for your generation 30 years from now?*

Essays will be judged on quality of writing, originality, and evidence of critical thinking. Entries must be between 500 and 750 words. All entries must be received at NPG no later than April 23, 2013. Winners will be announced on our website by July 12, 2013. For a complete list of the rules, please visit www.NPG.org.



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