



Perspectives

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

How hard is it to make a decision once you are presented with the facts?

That's the question we have to ask many Members of Congress who still contend that they "aren't sure" whether or not they will support the comprehensive immigration reform and amnesty now being debated on Capitol Hill.

It seems that every week, new facts emerge about certain provisions contained in S. 744 – the nearly 1,200-page immigration reform bill that passed the Senate and was sent to the House of Representatives at the end of June. Unfortunately, these new facts make the legislation even more objectionable.

However, most of the consequences related to S. 744 have been front and center since debate on the bill began. It is absolutely shocking that so many legislators simply ignore them.

A sampling of the facts includes:

- S. 744 will cost hundreds of billions of dollars in the next few years, at a time when our nation is running huge deficits.
- The Department of Homeland Security – which has utterly failed to enforce current immigration laws – will be solely responsible for processing millions of applications for amnesty.
- Giving legal status to millions of current illegals will create havoc with jobs, while 11.5 million American citizens are out of work and unemployment stands at 7.4%.
- 11 million or more newly-legal immigrants will trigger an influx of countless millions of additional people arriving in our country via chain migration.
- Increased demands on social services, transportation, schools, hospitals, and housing will result from absorbing so many people into American society.

(Continued on page 2)

NPG'S NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE

When you next access www.NPG.org, be ready for a brighter and livelier experience than ever before! Still rich with all the information you need about today's population and immigration issues, we are currently redesigning our website to accommodate the ever-growing increase of traffic we receive.

The redesigned site will allow visitors – especially young people eager to learn about population issues – to access up-to-date news related to population data, NPG's ongoing activities, member interaction with elected officials, press releases, polling numbers, survey results, etc. In addition, students and teachers will find it easier to register for our NPG Scholarships, request our newest educational packets and population poster, and review our list of recommended reading on the impact of population growth. Finally, researchers can more readily access NPG publications, including: NPG Forum papers and an archive of past issues of the *NPG Journal* and *Population Perspectives* newsletter.

Be on the lookout for the new site, coming soon!

POPULATION GROWTH ON FINAL JEOPARDY!™

NPG was pleased to see the issue of U.S. population growth represented on the popular television show Jeopardy!™ Earlier this year, the Final Jeopardy! question was:



Between 2000 and 2010, these two states that border each other led the nation in highest percentage of population increases – 35% and 25%.

Check the answer on the enclosed reply! NPG hopes to see more of the U.S. media embrace population growth as a real topic, one quite worthy of mention, within their programming. Be sure to check our website, www.NPG.org, for the latest in population-related data!

NEW POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The First Based on the 2010 Census

Researchers at the University of Virginia’s Weldon Cooper Center for Public Studies got a jump on the U.S. Census Bureau and were the first to release national and state population projections using the recent 2010 Census data.

Along with detailed demographic breakdowns, the report projects that U.S. population will grow from 308,745,536 in 2010 to 382,152,247 in 2040. States projected to show the greatest population growth over the next twenty-seven years include:

| | <u>2010</u> | <u>2040</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Arizona | 6.3 | 9.8 |
| California | 37.2 | 49.6 |
| Colorado | 5.0 | 7.0 |
| Florida | 18.8 | 27.2 |
| Georgia | 9.6 | 13.5 |
| Maryland | 5.7 | 7.1 |
| North Carolina | 9.5 | 12.8 |
| Texas | 25.1 | 35.2 |
| Virginia | 8.0 | 10.4 |
| Washington | 6.7 | 9.1 |

(Figures are in millions)

For the full report on national and state population projections data, go to: <http://www.coopercenter.org/demographics/national-population-projections>.

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN (Continued from page 1)

I have yet to see any Senator or Congressman openly declare that any of the above statements are wrong. To most Americans, any one of these facts would doom this bill – let alone all of them combined. Sadly, what we are witnessing is a massive piece of legislation moving through Congress where facts are being totally ignored and political agendas reign supreme.

Congress is proceeding to move full-speed ahead, playing backroom politics to the hilt, and creating a multi-billion dollar political monstrosity that ventures far from its major objective – creating **responsible** immigration reform. This is so very wrong. Any final bill that is a product of intense lobbying by dozens of special interest groups and calculated partisan politics is definitely *not* going to serve the best interests of our nation. The end result of such short-sightedness will be an immigration bill that gives nothing to the average American but billions more dollars of debt, and an even lower standard of living. As one national columnist recently wrote, what we have so far is a “thousand page wish list of immigration giveaways.”

For the record, NPG wants to see any number of reforms made to our immigration system and many of them are part of this national discussion. We very much welcome the reasonable changes, such as reining in chain migration and ending the diversity lottery. We’d also like

to see Congress put an end to the present “anchor baby” system that adds an estimated 300,000 people annually to our nation’s population. Most important, we want to see annual immigration significantly reduced from its present 1-million-plus to no more than 200,000 per year.

When S. 744 passed the Senate in June, I considered it a threat to America’s future that damages any hope for population stability within the United States. Nothing has happened in the weeks since then to assuage my concerns. We must not accept a major new immigration law that will send America’s population skyrocketing and deliver a severe blow to the efforts of millions of Americans who share NPG’s goal: to slow, halt, and eventually reverse U.S. population growth to achieve a sustainable quality of life for future generations.

When Congress comes back from its August recess, the structure of new immigration reforms will be one of the most important issues our leaders will have to decide. The debate over this critical issue is sure to be a defining moment for our country. We can’t let them continue to get it wrong.

Please don’t step back from being as vocal as possible, working to make sure that many of the worst provisions of S. 744 – especially amnesty and all measures which would significantly increase U.S. population size – don’t survive in the final legislation.

NPG'S NATIONAL SURVEY

In addition to our annual NPG Member Questionnaire, we mail out hundreds of thousands of surveys each year to Americans across the country seeking their opinions and feedback on our issues and policies. The thousands of responses we receive to our *National U.S. Voter Public Opinion Survey* ensure that NPG is addressing the concerns of American citizens when it comes to such critical issues as immigration, population growth, the environment, etc.

We are pleased to present a sampling of survey questions and answers. The full tally of both our annual Member Questionnaire and Public Opinion Survey are available on our website, www.NPG.org.

America's runaway population is fueling a dangerous surge of social, environmental and economic problems that are seriously impacting our communities and destroying our quality of life. Do you think Congress should act quickly to adopt a national population policy that will put the brakes on our nation's uncontrolled population growth?

YES 89% NO 6% NOT SURE 5%

Each year our immigrant population, now at over 35 Million, swells by over 1 million more new immigrants as some 1,000,000 legal and 500,000 illegal immigrants settle in America. Do you think our nation's current immigration level of over 1.5 Million per year is too high?

YES 98% NO 1% NOT SURE 1%

Of the following reasons for stopping and reversing our U.S. population growth, please rate the most important to you. The most common answers were:

Overwhelming burden on government, services & taxpayers: 40%

Deteriorating quality of life: 16%

Impact on our environment: 10%

Loss of farmland: 4%

If you have recommendations for survey questions we should consider adding to this project, please email them to us at npg@NPG.org.

2013 NPG SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Six students shared \$7,500 in prize money this year, as NPG announced the winners of our **2013 Essay Scholarship Contest**. This year's winners are:

\$2,500: Wyatt Martinez, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

\$1,000: Sarah Fine, University of Missouri – Columbia

\$1,000: Hartland McDonald, Florida State University

\$1,000: Ryan Molton, University of Arizona

\$1,000: Camille Pederson, Point Loma Nazarene University – California

\$1,000: Jayme Pruet, Hunter College

Some select quotes from winning essays:

"It has been more than 30 years since Dr. Seuss wrote his clever environmental fable. So, as I reflect on the growth that is overtaking my community and my world, I must quote Dr. Seuss's character *The Lorax* one final time: 'Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.' Overpopulation is no fairy tale, and this is a prophetic call to action." –Wyatt Martinez

"Anyone who has a solid grasp of compounding interest rates should be worried about population growth. People read news articles saying the rate of growth is decreasing and are put at ease. Well, when you are working with such large numbers, a decrease from 1 percent to 0.9 percent growth is still just that: growth." –Jayme Pruet

"We're deluding ourselves into thinking that the earth's bountiful resources are endless and no care needs to be given to how unlimited population growth will defeat all our efforts in sustainability and conservation." –Hartland McDonald

BORDER SECURITY OR HYPE?

As Congress debates immigration reform, we are constantly told by Obama administration officials that our borders are secure. In an interview with *ABC News* in March, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano stated: "The amount of manpower, technology, everything else that we have put on that border is simply amazing." Yet time and again, news stories emerge that expose the consistent failures and serious problems of today's still-failing system.

A perfect example came to light in mid-July, when *Fox News* reported on the arrest of Daniel Jupa-Fino for smuggling "roughly 220 pounds of marijuana" (drugs with a street value of more than \$165,000) in Pinal County, AZ. Upon being stopped for a traffic violation, Jupa-Fino fled from police but was later captured. According to the *Fox News* report, the suspect "was later taken to a United States Border Patrol Office, where he was identified as having been deported 11 prior times during the last three years for illegal entry into the United States."

Despite countless billions invested in border security, such stories give extra meaning to Secretary Napolitano's assertion that things are "simply amazing."

THE COST OF SAFE DRINKING WATER

Does anybody have an extra \$384 billion lying around to continue providing safe drinking water to our present – let alone growing – population? Sadly, in this age of extremely tight budgets, federal, state, and local governments are sure to come up short in committing to the huge investments that will be needed in this area in the years ahead.

According to a recent *CNN.com* article, a new report released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that “\$384 billion needs to be spent in the next 17 years to maintain a safe supply for millions of Americans.” The article cites that within the EPA report, the “most significant expense, \$247.5 billion, should go to replacing the aging pipes, many of which are between 50 to 100 years old.” The EPA report focused on 73,400 water systems across the country, finding that “\$72.5 billion is needed to prevent contamination.”

Of particular note in the article were statements by Peter Grevatt, director of the EPA’s Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. “States with larger populations have larger needs of money to maintain and update the pipes...” Gravatt said that **increased population growth** coupled with the effects of climate change, such as drought, have forced communities to rely more heavily on water systems.”

In addition to those repairs, replacement, and contamination expenses, the EPA report also suggests “\$39.5 billion to construct, rehabilitate or cover finished water storage reservoirs,” and “\$20.5 billion to construct or rehabilitate intake structures, wells and spring collectors.”

The EPA numbers are much below a 2012 report by the American Water Works Association estimate that more than \$1.7 trillion would be needed for water projects between 2011 and 2050. While that report covers an additional 20 years, we are still talking about a huge, necessary investment.

Whatever level America’s population will reach in the coming decades, our citizens will need and demand safe drinking water. The challenge of modernizing America’s water delivery system must become a top national priority. This report only confirms NPG’s long-held assessment: we must slow, halt, and eventually reverse U.S. population growth to preserve an enjoyable quality of life for future generations.

PEAK WATER

“Peak oil has generated headlines in recent years, but the real threat to our future is peak water. There are substitutes for oil, but not for water. We can produce food without oil, but not without water.”

That powerful statement serves as the introduction to a well-researched and highly informative evaluation of current and future water resources recently authored by Lester R. Brown, founder and president of Earth Policy Institute in Washington, DC.

Brown’s essay, ***Peak Water: What Happens When the Wells Go Dry?***, reflects on the challenges we currently face across the globe and here in the U.S. when it comes to water access and aquifers – and how it relates to future food production. We offer it as recommended reading at www.earth-policy.institute.org.



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Population Perspectives is a quarterly publication by Negative Population Growth, a national non-profit membership organization dedicated to educating Americans about the devastating effects of overpopulation on our environment and quality of life.

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