

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT OBAMA ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

Dear Mr. President:

You begin your second term leading a nation with serious problems: deficits and debt, crumbling infrastructure, drought and spiraling food prices, chronic unemployment, and a deteriorating environment. Our rapid population growth causes or aggravates those serious problems. As you work with Congress to seek solutions, it is critical that you remember to be a “good ancestor” – to secure not just the best and lasting interests of today’s Americans but also their progeny.

This outlook is essential as you confront the tangled issue of immigration reform, which you have quite rightly made a top priority. Negative Population Growth stands beside millions of concerned Americans hopeful that, in addressing how many are to come, you will encourage debate that places vital long-term values of conservation, environmental stability, and quality of life ahead of short-term political fixes.

The Census Bureau now projects that by 2060 America’s population will reach 420 million – an increase of nearly 105 million, with more growth still ahead. Immigration, as it is now managed, will account for the vast majority of that future population growth.

Such surging growth is perilous and unsustainable. The current challenges to our resources and quality of life will only worsen if we do not reasonably limit our intake, backing up those limits with fair but firm enforcement.

While it may be hard to enact immigration rules that do not seem unfair to the hopes and dreams of some, our primary obligations are to preserve a livable society for future generations and maintain an environmentally sound and stable nation able to continue exercising world leadership.

Thank you.

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