

"Writing the truth  
as I see it;  
trying not to  
offend  
those who will  
disagree."

# The truth as I see it™

Idaho Common Sense™



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## More jobs, larger tax base, cuts in entitlements

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The government continues wasting our money, leading us further into socialism and worse. Our leaders refuse to understand that the free market economy works, but only if the government stops trying to help. Nonetheless, government continues handing out “free” money, people little noticing that they are becoming dependent on those monies and losing the incentive to be self-sufficient.

To promote the president’s socialist admonition to “share the wealth,” the government spends money on cash for clunkers, new home purchases, mortgage, bank and auto bailouts. Instead of redistributing the wealth, why not spend it competently on new jobs, a larger tax base and cuts in entitlement programs?

What would it take to do this? First, honoring our laws rather than ignoring them. Second, working to cut the size of government spending rather than spending us into oblivion. Last, considering what is best for the people rather than what is best for the government.

I saw this possibility when reading a report by Vanderbilt University professor Carol Swain, who evaluated job losses at Swift & Co. meatpacking plants. In 2006, 1,300 illegal aliens were arrested at six Swift plants—10 percent of the company’s workforce. According to illegal alien proponents, they were just doing jobs that Americans refuse to do, proving their value to our economy.

So, what happened? Did losing 10 percent of their employees force the company out of business because

no Americans were willing to do these jobs? Isn’t that what we are routinely told? Guess what? The company was not crippled; rather, it was back to normal operations within a few months with a full workforce.

The replacement workers? Americans were more than willing to do the jobs but they demanded and received fair wages. And the benefits to society? Those 1,300 illegal aliens were deported, 1,300 American workers found jobs, the costs of entitlements decreased, and because the American workers were paid more than the illegal aliens, tax revenues rose. Professor Swain saw this same pattern repeat at other companies.

But, what would it cost to do this on a large scale nationwide? Maybe it would cost more to arrest and deport illegal aliens than to just leave them alone, despite taking American jobs. Maybe it would be cheaper to just give them all citizenship, theoretically ending the illegal alien problem.

That was tried in 1986 with the Immigration Reform and Control Act that allowed a path to citizenship for 2.7 million illegal aliens. That amnesty obviously failed to solve the problem because there are now an estimated 12 to 15 million illegal aliens in the United States. Moreover, the Heritage Foundation estimates it will cost U.S. taxpayers \$2.6 trillion to legalize the current number of illegal aliens.

Well, what if we did arrest and deport illegal aliens? The Center for American Progress estimates

deporting all illegal aliens would cost about \$200 billion spread out over five years. But this estimate might be high because it predicts a maximum of only 20 percent of the illegal aliens would self-deport, a number much lower than the over 50 percent seen when the Eisenhower administration mass deported illegal aliens in the 1950s.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform (F.A.I.R.) estimates illegal aliens in our country cost the taxpayers \$50 billion a year. The Heritage Foundation published another study, “The Fiscal Cost of Low-Skill Households to the U.S. Taxpayer,” which included many of the illegal alien families. It estimated the yearly cost to the taxpayers at \$22,000 per household, similar to F.A.I.R.’s estimates.

These organizations do have a political slant, so take the numbers with a grain of salt. That said, these numbers suggest a net taxpayer savings of \$10 billion a year for five years, followed by an ongoing savings of \$50 billion a year.

The bottom line? No matter how you massage these numbers, deporting illegal aliens cuts costs of entitlement programs and adds better paying jobs for American workers, who then pay more taxes. An added bonus? It’s the right thing to do.