

AILA's

Restrictionist Watch

Volume 1, Number 3, May 12, 2004

Welcome to *Restrictionist Watch*, a publication intended to alert AILA Members, our coalition partners, and the public to the ongoing activities of immigration restrictionists. These groups are well-organized and well-funded and are gearing up to fight any and all positive immigration initiatives. Your voice is needed to counter their rhetoric and activities. Please visit the Advocacy Center on AILA InfoNet or AILA's public site, AILA.org, for information on how you can help shape the future of immigration. Included on these sites are backgrounders and issue papers on the top immigration-related issues of the day.

Feature Article:

Editor's Note: The following feature article concerns attempts by immigration restrictionists to take control of the Sierra Club during that organization's recent elections for its Board of Directors, the results of which were announced on April 21. Sierra Club members soundly defeated efforts by anti-immigration forces to gain control of the organization, selecting candidates endorsed by the Club's nominating committee to fill all five open seats on the 15-member board. The issue drew a record number of members participating in the elections—171,616 out of 757,058, or almost 23 percent of the membership, compared with previous percentages in the single-digit range. While the restrictionists failed to take over the Club, they have indicated that they will continue their efforts to do so. For more on the elections, see the *Washington Update* dated April 27, 2004, at: <http://www.aila.org/fileViewer.aspx?docID=12931>.

Missing the Forest for the Trees:

The Environmental Arguments of Immigration Restrictionists Miss the Point

March 2004

In the latest battle for control of the Sierra Club, immigration restrictionists are again using an "over-population" argument that is based on flawed environmental assumptions and offers no useful guide for fixing the broken U.S. immigration system.

by Walter A. Ewing, Ph.D.*

The latest attempt by immigration restrictionists to take control of the Sierra Club is again casting a public spotlight on the question of whether immigration to the United States plays a significant role in the destruction of the environment. Anti-immigration activists failed in a 1998 referendum to persuade most Sierra Club members to make immigration restriction an official policy of the environmental organization, which was founded in 1892 by Scottish immigrant John Muir. This time, the restrictionists are attempting to win a majority on the Club's board of directors. As before, the restrictionist camp is using the neo-Malthusian argument that the United States must adopt stringent immigration controls in order to keep the U.S. population low and thereby minimize the amount of resources the nation consumes and the environmental destruction it causes. At first glance, this argument is attractive in its simplicity: less immigration, fewer people, more resources, a better environment. However, as with so many simple arguments about complex topics, it misses the point. Over-population is not the primary cause of U.S.

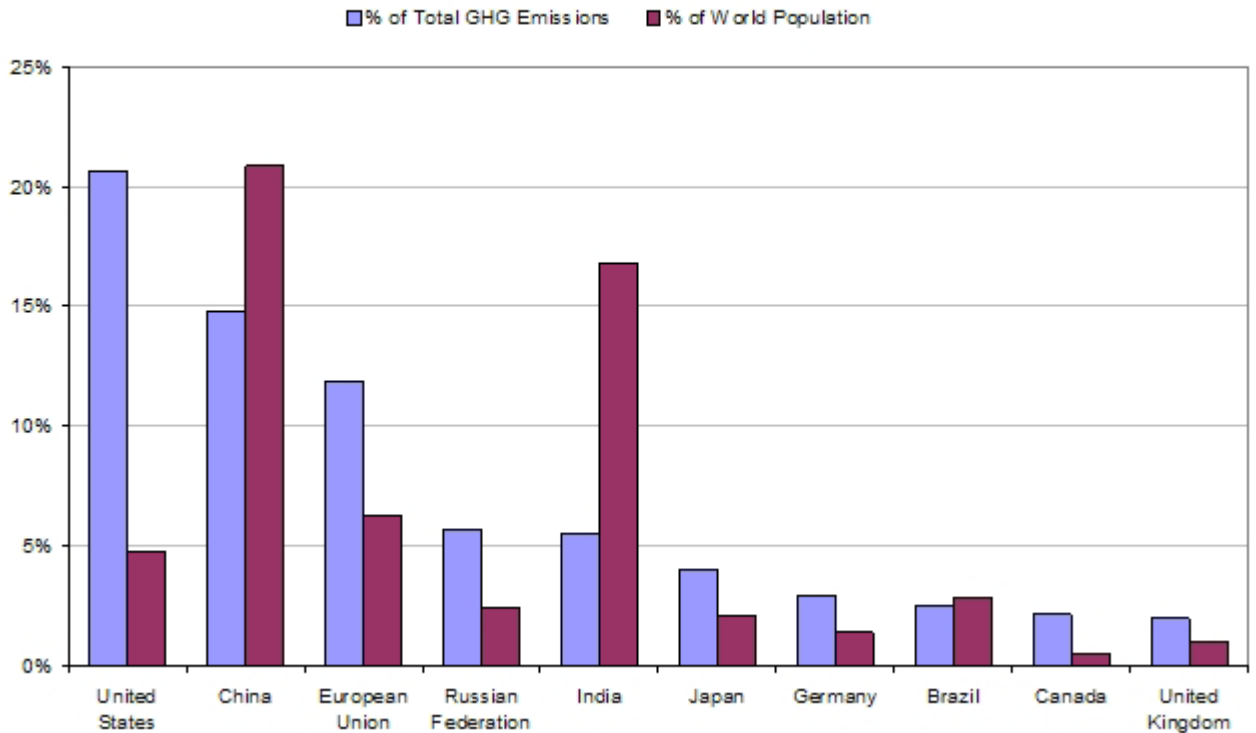
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environmental woes, and immigration restrictions that remain blind to the economic realities which cause migration are doomed to failure.

“Over-Population” is Over Simplified

The central thesis of the immigration restrictionists, that environmental problems in the United States are largely the result of over-population, is simply not supported by the facts. According to data from the World Resources Institute, in 2000 the United States was home to 4.7 percent of the world’s population, yet consumed 25.3 percent of all fossil fuels and generated 20.6 percent of all “green house gases,” such as carbon dioxide. In comparison, the 15 nations of the European Union, {1} which enjoy standards of living comparable to the United States, {2} collectively contained 6.2 percent of the world’s population, consumed 14.8 percent of fossil fuels, and generated 11.8 percent of green house gases. In other words, despite containing 24 percent fewer people than the European Union, the United States consumed 70.9 percent more fossil fuels and produced 74.2 percent more green house gases. {3}

Top 10 Producers of Green House Gases (GHGs) by Percentage of Total GHG Emissions and Percentage of World Population



(Source: Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (CAIT) version 1.5, World Resources Institute, Washington, DC, 2003. Available at: <http://cait.wri.org>.)

As this comparison illustrates, levels of resource consumption and environmental destruction are not directly correlated with population, even in countries with similar standards of living. Rather, they are conditioned by a host of other factors, such as the degree to which a society depends upon polluting and non-renewable fossil fuels; utilizes pollution-reduction technologies; develops systems of mass transit to minimize individual automobile use; uses plastics and other non-biodegradable materials in manufacturing and packaging consumer goods; recycles potentially recyclable materials; and controls agricultural run-off into waterways. Put differently, a few people can pollute a lot, or a lot of people can pollute a little, depending on the systems of production and consumption within a society. The problem is less about how many people are in the United States, and more about how the United States produces and consumes.

Arbitrary Limits Don't Work

Nevertheless, the restrictionists propose tougher immigration controls as a solution to the perceived problem of immigrant-fueled population growth. Implicit in this proposal is the assumption that immigration can be reduced simply by imposing arbitrary limits that bear no relationship to economic reality. However, the federal government already has demonstrated through its failed border-enforcement policy that this approach doesn't work. Since 1993, the federal government has spent \$23.4 billion on immigration enforcement, quintupling the annual immigration-enforcement budget to \$3.8 billion {4} and nearly tripling the size of the U.S. Border Patrol to 10,835 agents. {5} Yet during this time the number of undocumented immigrants living in the United States, principally Mexicans and Central Americans, has doubled to roughly 9 million. {6} Rather than reducing migration, the U.S. enforcement strategy has succeeded primarily in producing a boom in business for human smugglers and a rising body count of immigrants who die while crossing the southwest border.

The main reason these costly enforcement efforts have failed is that they ignore the economic forces which drive migration. Most immigrants come to the United States because they lack sufficient economic opportunities at home and because the U.S. labor market continues to generate demand for workers, particularly in the service sector, that is not being met by either the growth of the native-born labor force or current limits on legal immigration. Migration from Mexico in particular has increased over the past two decades because the U.S. and Mexican governments have actively promoted the economic integration of the two countries since at least 1986. {7} As the past 11 years of federal border-enforcement efforts have made crystal clear, immigration policies that ignore these larger economic forces merely drive migration underground rather than regulating it effectively in ways that are most beneficial to both sending and receiving societies.

Arguments without Substance

The over-population argument of immigration restrictionists is based on flawed environmental assumptions and offers no useful guide for fixing the broken U.S. immigration system. An anti-immigration pronouncement by a newly restrictionist Sierra Club, for instance, would do nothing to address the principal causes of environmental destruction in the United States, lessen the U.S. economy's demand for immigrant workers, or improve employment prospects in the communities from which immigrants come. Instead, it would only add a veneer of green xenophobia to a respected leader of the environmental movement.

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Endnotes

1 Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

2 As measured by the United Nations' Human Development Index (United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2002: Deepening democracy in a fragmented world*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2002.)

3 World Resources Institute, Washington, DC: Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (CAIT) version 1.5 (Available at: <http://cait.wri.org>) & EarthTrends Country Profiles (Available at <http://earthtrends.wri.org>).

4 Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice budget statistics.

5 Testimony of Asa Hutchinson, Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security, Department of Homeland Security, Before the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Citizenship, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, February 12, 2004; Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.

6 Jeffrey S. Passel, Randy Capps & Michael Fix, "Undocumented Immigrants: Facts and Figures." Washington, DC: Urban Institute, January 12, 2004; U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Office of Policy and Planning, *Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: 1990-2000*, January 31, 2003.

7 Douglas S. Massey, Jorge Durand & Nolan J. Malone, *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Mexican Immigration in an Era of Economic Integration*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation, 2002.

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Wall Street Journal Editorial Sparks a Restrictionist Tirade

An opinion piece published by the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) on March 15 has triggered the ire of immigration restrictionists. In his op-ed entitled "GOP Nativists Tarnish Reagan's 'Shining City,'" Jason Riley ponders what it is about immigration "that makes so many conservatives lose their bearings." During the course of his article, Mr. Riley states:

So determined is conservatism's nativist wing that it's even made common cause with radical environmentalists and zero-population-growth fanatics on the leftist fringe. The Federation for American Immigration Reform and the Center for Immigration Studies may strike right-wing poses in the press, but both groups support big government, mock federalism, deride free markets and push a cultural agenda abhorrent to any self-respecting social conservative.

FAIR's founder and former president is John Tanton, an eye doctor who opened the first Planned Parenthood chapter in northern Michigan. By Dr. Tanton's own reckoning, FAIR has received more than \$1.5 million from the Pioneer Fund, a white-supremacist outfit devoted to racial purity through eugenics.

Board members of FAIR actively promote the sterilization of Third World women for the purposes of reducing U.S. immigration prospects. And if anything disturbs the good doctor more than those Latin American hordes crossing the Rio Grande, it's the likelihood that most of them are Catholic, or so he once told a Reuters reporter.

CIS, an equally repugnant FAIR offshoot, is a big fan of China's one-child policy and publishes books advocating looser limits on abortion and wider use of RU-486. CIS considers the Sierra Club, which cites "stabilizing world population" fourth on its 21st century to-do list, as too moderate. And like FAIR, CIS has called for a target U.S. population of 150 million, about half of what it is today.

Unlike their counterparts on the restrictionist right, these organizations don't distinguish between legal and illegal immigration. They want the border sealed as a means to a fanciful, neo-Malthusian end. Both sides, however, do share the same intellectual framework -- an overriding pessimism and lack of understanding about markets, which is why both also tend to oppose free trade.

Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) Executive Director, Mark Krikorian published a scathing reply on March 31 in the *National Review Online* in which he opined that "the high-immigration Right is on the warpath, trying to delegitimize all conservatives who stand between them and the

illegal-alien amnesties they crave.” After labeling the article “outrageous,” Mr. Krikorian goes on to (purportedly) demonstrate how the “high-immigration Right works hand-in-glove with the anti-American Left.” Mr. Krikorian specifically attacks Representative Chris Cannon (R-UT), who is currently being targeted in a well-funded attack by immigration restrictionists. (see next article). He then asserts how proud he is to “stand with the patriotic left on the specific issue of immigration...[while] Chris Cannon and company have made the opposite choice, embracing some enemies of America.”

Similarly, the Washington-based ProjectUSA for an Immigration Time-Out (ProjectUSA) wasted no time in calling the *Wall Street Journal* piece “truly repellent” and “as scurrilous a smear piece as anything ever published by that loathsome paper-and that’s saying a lot.” ProjectUSA went on to urge “Members of Congress...[to] keep in mind that the anti-borders zealots at the *WSJ* have repeatedly called editorially for a five-word amendment to the U.S. Constitution: ‘There shall be open borders.’” In other words, says ProjectUSA, “the paper is radically out-of-step with the American people (not to mention reality) and a member of Congress should take an attack from these ideologues as reason enough to embrace the positions of ProjectUSA and other immigration realists...The American people simply must not allow Representative Chris Cannon and his Morlockian allies at the *Wall Street Journal* to turn U.S. immigration policy over to corporate profiteers and ethnic-identity power-mongers,” the organization warns. (excerpted from ProjectUSA’s online publication, Issue 185, dated March 29, 2004).

Restrictionists Reach Deep into Their Coffers in Campaign to Unseat Chris Cannon and Others

Various restrictionist groups are turning up the heat in their efforts to unseat congressional incumbents in a number of congressional districts. As we reported in the last issue of *Restrictionist Watch* (see <http://www.aila.org/contentViewer.aspx?bc=10,911,4637,5027>), ProjectUSA states on its website that it is seeking to unseat the following candidates who were selected, the organization states, because they: (1) are considered vulnerable in the next election (i.e., won by less than 55% in the last election), and (2) have a poor voting record in Congress on immigration as determined by the restrictionist group Americans for Better Immigration.

The lawmakers being targeted include Representatives: Jeff Flake (R-6th AZ), Jim Kolbe (R-8th AZ), Jim Leach (R-2nd IA), Leonard Boswell (D-3rd IA), Dennis Moore (D-3rd KS), Chris Cannon (R-3rd UT), Jim Matheson (D-2nd UT), Earl Pomeroy (D-At Large ND), and Baron Hill (D-9th IN).

The group is using a combination of billboards, direct mail surveys, online surveys, and media appearances to raise the immigration issue in the targeted districts, and speculates that “if we are able to raise the anti-immigration issue in these nine districts, and inform voters of their Congressman’s immigration voting record, the immigration issue might decide two or three contests.” ProjectUSA goes on to pronounce that: “If that were to happen, it would trigger a political earthquake in Washington. Immigration moderates would gain enormous confidence, immigration extremists would suffer a serious setback, and pro-borders lobbyists would command new respect in the halls of Congress.”

While Representative Cannon is just one of several lawmakers being targeted, the campaign against him has been, perhaps, the most visible. The *Salt Lake Tribune* reported on April 9 that the Coalition for the Future American Worker (CFAW) (www.americanworker.org) recently ran an ad blitz against Representative Cannon comprising two days of near-hourly “urgent legislative alerts” on KSL Radio estimated to cost more than \$17,000. According to the *Tribune*, the messages not only criticized the AgJobs legislation that Representative Cannon is sponsoring,

claiming that it will “encourage mass immigration” and “cost Utah millions,” they also directly attack the congressman.¹

“Chris Cannon wants this bill even though classrooms are overcrowded, the state is facing water shortages, 15 million Americans can’t find work [and] . . . two of the first World Trade Center bombers were—you guessed it—agricultural guest workers driving taxis in New York,” the ads reportedly state.

Representative Cannon’s Chief of Staff, Joe Hunter, was quoted by the *Tribune* as stating, “Though meant to refer to the 1993 World Trade Center bombers, the ad is clearly intended to link immigration reform to 9/11, which is fairly disgusting.”² In disputing the ads’ allegations, Representative Cannon has emphasized that the AgJobs legislation would encourage undocumented immigrants to come out “of the shadows where terrorists and criminals hide” and get a temporary status to work legally so “we know who they are and what they are doing.” “There are some who maintain that the solution to illegal immigration is simple,” continued Representative Cannon: “We should round all these folks up and send them home, wherever that might be. In the context of an election year, that approach might have some appeal. But it is not a real solution,” he added.

Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform, and Howard Stephenson, President of the Utah Taxpayers Association, agree. In a May 2 article on FOXNews.com, they opine that Representative Cannon’s “crime” is proposing legislation that would establish a workable and realistic temporary worker program that would allow willing foreign workers to match up with willing domestic employers. “Taking cheap shots at elected officials is nothing new,” state Messrs. Norquist and Stephenson, “but the immigration issue is too important, too complex, and too emotional to be further distorted by the burgeoning anti-immigration industry.”

As a result of the restrictionists’ campaign against him, Representative Cannon will face a primary challenge for the first time since 1998. The *Provo Daily Herald* reports that, in state party conventions held May 8, Cannon received 57.57 percent—just shy of the 60 percent needed to claim the Republican nomination outright—compared with challenger Matt Throckmorton’s 42.43 percent.

Representative Cannon is just one of several lawmakers the Coalition for the Future American Worker is working to oust via expensive media buys. The Coalition has been running ads in both South Dakota and Nebraska attacking Senators Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Chuck Hagel (R-NE), and the bipartisan immigration reform legislation the two are sponsoring (S. 2010, the Immigration Reform Act of 2004). The group is running similar ads in the Dallas market against Representative Martin Frost (D-TX), and several generic “anti-amnesty” ads in Iowa and South Carolina.

Like other restrictionist groups, CFAW is a strong supporter of the status quo. They thus stand in disagreement with most everyone that the status quo is broken and needs to be fixed. What all of CFAW and ProjectUSA targets share is the correct understanding that we need immigration reform to make the system safe, legal, and orderly. CFAW and ProjectUSA are proponents of an enforcement regime that has failed. Most likely both groups will have additional targets in the future, as other Members of Congress introduce bills to reform our broken system. For more information on comprehensive immigration reform, see AILA’s Issue Paper on the topic, at: <http://www.aila.org/fileViewer.aspx?docID=9840>

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¹ *Salt Lake Tribune*, Apr. 9, 2004.

² *Id.*

Restrictionist Roundup

What have the major anti-immigration players been up to recently? A brief roundup of their activities follows.

Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) (www.fairus.org):

Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Representatives Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), on May 4, introduced the “Safe, Orderly Legal Visas and Enforcement (SOLVE) Act of 2004” (S. 2381/H.R. 4262), comprehensive immigration reform legislation that AILA strongly supports. As might be expected, FAIR and other restrictionist groups were quick to both mischaracterize and criticize the measure, dubbing it the “No Illegal Alien Left Behind Bill.” “Nobody who has violated our immigration laws will be turned away,” asserted FAIR Executive Director Dan Stein. “Even criminals and terrorists will be given sufficient opportunity to appeal the denials of their applications,” he added.

In a May 4 press release, FAIR alleged that, “[u]nder the Kennedy-Gutierrez legislation, most, if not all, of the estimated 8-13 million illegal aliens in the country would be granted immediate amnesty, and nearly all existing limits on people seeking admission to the U.S. would be lifted. . . . While the Kennedy-Gutierrez bill provides every conceivable benefit to illegal aliens, it contains not a single enforcement provision to stem future illegal immigration. About the only positive thing that can be said about this legislation is that it does not insult the intelligence of the American people by making more empty promises to enforce our immigration laws. The authors of this bill have no intention of stopping anyone who wants to come here illegally and at least they do not propose spending billions more of the taxpayers money to prevent millions more illegal aliens from coming here.”

FAIR’s characterization of this important legislation is not simply misleading—it’s blatantly erroneous. The SOLVE Act would bring us laws that make sense, make us safer, support our economy, and help families reunify. The legislation would achieve these ends through a comprehensive overhaul of our immigration laws, including: an earned adjustment program; a new “break-the-mold” worker program; family backlog reduction; and enhanced national security measures. To view AILA’s materials on the SOLVE Act, go to: <http://www.aila.org/infonet/contentViewer.aspx?bc=106,2612,5511>

On April 28, 2004, FAIR Executive Director Dan Stein and FAIR’s Government Relations staff gave a presentation on Capitol Hill, the purpose of which, FAIR states, was to “educate policymakers and their staff on how to effectively talk about immigration reform to the media and the public.” According to FAIR’s website, FAIR Government Relations Director Paul Egan and Senior Government Relations Associate Sandra Gunn also gave presentations that covered major areas of conflict in the immigration debate. For AILA’s perspective on immigration reform, see: <http://www.aila.org/fileViewer.aspx?docID=9840>.

Also on April 28, FAIR activists and members of 9/11 Families for a Secure America held a rally in Hartford, Connecticut to demand that the Connecticut legislature act to bar undocumented aliens and “potential terrorists” from obtaining state-issued driver’s licenses and identification cards. FAIR held a similar press event in Tallahassee, Florida on April 12 to urge Florida Governor Jeb Bush to rethink his decision to support giving driver’s licenses to undocumented aliens in that state. In an April 12 press release accompanying the event, FAIR alleged that “Florida is once again making itself a terrorist friendly state. Not only did most of the 9/11 assassins carry the state’s drivers license, but three of them attended flight school there.” Countering assurances from Governor Bush that the bill he is backing “has enough safeguards that it would ensure terrorists would not get licenses,” FAIR called the bill’s security measures

“entirely bogus,” adding that “virtually all of the 9/11 hijackers would have been eligible for a Florida driver’s license under the proposed new rules.”

This attempt at linking undocumented people with terrorists continues the rhetoric the restrictionists have used for several years. AILA opposes limiting immigrants’ access to driver’s licenses based on immigration status. Such linkage does NOT make us safer. Denying driver’s licenses to large segments of the population is an inefficient way to enforce immigration laws and prevent terrorism and would make everyone in the community less safe. To view AILA’s Issue Paper on immigrants’ access to driver’s licenses and the safety concerns surrounding this issue, go to: <http://www.aila.org/fileViewer.aspx?docID=9857>.

FAIR has also been busy working to derail the momentum toward an H-2B fix. In its April 12 Legislative Update, FAIR thanks its supporters for “flooding the Senate with phone calls...against S. 2258, Sen. Orrin Hatch’s (R-UT) bill to increase the number of H-2B foreign workers allowed to enter the U.S. and take American jobs.” According to FAIR, these calls “made a huge impact, [as] the Senate adjourned for spring recess...WITHOUT taking up the bill.” FAIR categorized the H-2B bill as “a test for broader guestworker amnesty legislation.” “While we have managed to stave off consideration of guestworker amnesty bills so far this Congress,” said FAIR, “getting this H-2B visa increase passed is the trial balloon for further expanding and liberalizing our guestworker system.”

AILA doubts that restrictionists’ calls have had any impact on the debate and believes that Congress should support a temporary H-2B fix for the remainder of the current fiscal year, followed in the next fiscal year by a more lasting solution that can be achieved only through comprehensive immigration. The bipartisan “Save Summer Act of 2004” (H.R. 4052/S. 2252) is the vehicle of choice. The bill would increase the H-2B cap for fiscal year 2004 by 40,000 visas—enough to cover employers’ needs for the critical summer employment season and the remainder of the fiscal year. To view AILA’s Issue Paper on H-2B workers, click on the following URL: <http://www.aila.org/fileViewer.aspx?docID=12626>.

To view an Immigration Policy Brief from the American Immigration Law Foundation (AILF) entitled, “Labor Market Numerology: Arbitrary Congressional Limits on Temporary Worker Visas,” go to: http://www.ailf.org/ipc/policy_reports_2004_labormarketnumerology.asp.

Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) (www.cis.org):

The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) churned out six op-eds and some congressional testimony during the month of April, in addition to the March 31 *National Review Online* opinion piece discussed in article #2 above. A list of these items, as well as links to their full text, follows:

Op-ed: [Don’t Give Noncitizens the Vote: Recent proposals to relax election requirements would ill serve the national interest](#), by Mark Krikorian, *Newsday*, April 26, 2004

Op-ed: [Safety Through Immigration Control](#), by Mark Krikorian, *The Providence Journal*, April 24, 2004

Op-ed: [Let Immigrants Vote? No](#), by Mark Krikorian, *New York Daily News*, April 18, 2004

Op-ed: [Trade Agreements and Immigration](#), by Jessica Vaughan, *In the National Interest*, April 13, 2004

Op-ed: [Gambling with Visas](#), by Mark Krikorian, *The American Enterprise*, April/May, 2004

Op-ed: [Viewpoints: Should borders be open?](#) by Mark Krikorian, *BBC News*, UK Edition, April 1, 2004

Congressional Testimony: “What’s Wrong with the Visa Lottery?” Testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims, April 29, 2004 [Statement of Steven Camarota, Director of Research, Center for Immigration Studies](#)

With reference to the above op-ed on “open borders,” Mr. Krikorian is creating a straw horse, as no one supports open borders. AILA supports borders that work—borders that help make us safer while simultaneously facilitating the necessary flow of people and goods that ensures our economic security which, in turn, pays for our national security. To read more about border issues, see the testimony of Kathleen Walker on the US VISIT program and Margaret Stock on securing our borders under a temporary guest worker program.

<http://www.aila.org/fileViewer.aspx?docID=12104> [Walker Testimony]

<http://www.aila.org/contentViewer.aspx?bc=10,911,576,4682,5136> [Stock Testimony]

To view AILA’s statement on legislation that would preserve diversity visa eligibility in the face of government processing delays, see:

<http://www.aila.org/contentViewer.aspx?bc=10,911,594,4691>

See also the testimony of Charles Nyaga, a Kenyan national who, along with his wife, applied for the Diversity Visa program in October 1997, was selected, and completed his application by February 1998. However, the former Immigration and Naturalization Service failed to complete the processing as mandated. This failure resulted in the Nyagas' application being denied and they now face deportation from the U.S. <http://www.house.gov/judiciary/nyaga042904.htm>.

CitizensLobby.com (www.citizenslobby.com)

CitizensLobby.com calls itself “a non-partisan, grass-roots organization that supports policies and legislation that puts Americans’ interests first...[and] advocate[s] stronger border security and immigration controls, the preservation of American sovereignty and traditional values, an ‘America First’ foreign and trade policy, and the abolition of wasteful government programs like foreign aid.” The organization issues e-newsletters, updates and special reports and encourages supporters to sign on-line petitions in support of restrictionist legislation.

During Easter week, the website of CitizensLobby.com contained one of those priceless “Master Card moment” messages:

“Citizens Lobby would like to wish you and your family a happy and blessed Easter,” stated the website. “This holiday is a time to reflect and celebrate Christ’s resurrection and to remember his sacrifice and teachings.” The text then segued right into a pitch for reporting illegal aliens on-line:

“ReportIllegals.com provides a simple, fast, and anonymous way to report suspected illegal aliens and suspected employers of illegal aliens to the appropriate U.S. government agencies. It takes only a few minutes to file a report with their service. If you know where illegal aliens are residing or working, Citizens Lobby strongly urges you to report them by clicking to this link below.”

The CitizensLobby.com website also recently contained a pitch against the “Summer Operations and Services (SOS) Relief and Reform Act” (S. 2258), sponsored by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), claiming that the legislation would more than double the number of H-2B visas issued to foreign workers. Supporters were then urged to contact their Senators and oppose the bill.

In addition, CitizensLobby.com recently provided an electronic forum for Colorado restrictionist Congressman Tom Tancredo's endorsement of fellow restrictionist, Republican Howard Kaloogian, a former California State Assemblyman and Chairman of the Recall Gray Davis Committee who is seeking to unseat Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) in the November elections. In a February 20 email sent out by Citizens Lobby, Congressman Tancredo solicited contributions on behalf of Mr. Kaloogian, adding that, "with a California Senator on my side, we can make real progress in the United States Congress."

Ranch Rescue

The Southern Poverty Law Center, in its Hatewatch report for the week of April 21, reported that Ranch Rescue, the armed paramilitary group that patrols private property along the border has disbanded its activity in Douglas, Arizona, amid an effort against vigilantism along the border. According to an April 14 article in the *Sierra Vista Herald*, however, an unknown number of its volunteers remain at the compound and are planning to regroup under a different name.

The *Herald* reports that, according to the group's website (which, as of press time, no longer appeared to be functioning), Ranch Rescue volunteers from the Missouri Militia and other groups based out of Texas and California came to Douglas as part of Operation Thunderbird, a continuous armed patrol of the U.S.-Mexico border region on private land around Douglas, as well as the construction of physical obstacles on the private property to deter Mexican traffic. Their goal, the *Herald* reports, citing the website, is to protect private ranchers' properties and interdict against people infringing upon private property rights.... "because the government has failed in its duty and contributes to the abuse."

According to the *Herald* article, ranch owner, Casey Nethercott, who invited the group to set up camp last September, was arrested November 25 in Douglas on a felony charge of flight to avoid prosecution. The charges reportedly stem from an incident in which Nethercott and another Ranch Rescue volunteer unlawfully detained and beat a Salvadoran couple in Texas in March 2003.

According to the *Herald*, Ranch Rescue's disbandment in Douglas coincides with a grassroots effort by the Tucson-based Border Action Network (<http://www.borderaction.org>) to designate Douglas as a Hate-Free Zone by encouraging local businesses and homeowners to display a poster that reads, "Racist Vigilantes Not Welcome Here!" Border Action Network member Daniel Krehbiel was quoted in the *Herald* as stating, "Their support has dried up here.... We are not just about shutting down Ranch Rescue, it's about stopping all types of racism along the border."

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Resources

For additional background on these and other groups, see AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 02071545 for an eye-opening report on restrictionist groups from the Southern Poverty Law Center. In its report, the Center researches many of these organizations, classifying some as racial hate-based groups, and explains how many of these so called "grassroots organizations" were founded and funded. The report reveals that the organizations are actually run by a small group of individuals and the membership numbers are highly inflated.

To view AILA's responses to the many inaccurate allegations put forth by these restrictionist groups and the Immigration Reform Caucus, see our section on AILA.org entitled "Myths and Facts." Please also visit the Advocacy Center for additional materials such as Issue Papers, Backgrounders, and AILA Press Releases. In addition, the Immigration Policy Center (IPC) of

the American Immigration Law Foundation (AILF) has developed other relevant materials. Please visit www.ailf.org and click on “Immigration Policy Center” to view these materials.

We Can’t Believe They Said That

“We’re simply advertising that [Cannon] is carrying water for the Bush administration’s guest worker program and using his seat on the immigration subcommittee to do all sorts of mischief,” said Nelsen. “We would target every district if we had the money, but we survive on \$50 donations from grandmothers.”

--ProjectUSA founder Craig Nelsen, denying allegations that his group is targeting Representative Chris Cannon in the race for Utah’s 3rd Congressional District or granting Republican challenger, former State Representative Matt Throckmorton, special political favors. *The Salt Lake Tribune*, Mar. 29, 2004.

“There are currently 103 members of Congress signed onto Rep. Cannon’s AgJOBS amnesty. However, it’s possible some of them have relied on Rep. Cannon’s office to explain what the bill actually does, in which case they’d have no idea what they’ve signed onto. Some, of course, like cosponsors Xavier Becerra and Luis Gutierrez, who openly align themselves with Mexico’s interests rather than those of the United States, won’t care. But there are others who might -- including the four Congressmen who are both cosponsoring the Cannon amnesty and whose districts are among those targeted by ProjectUSA.” [emphasis in original]

--excerpt from ProjectUSA’s online publication, Issue 186, dated April 19, 2004

According to DHS sources, 93 percent of all aliens who ask for asylum through the “credible fear” review process are found to have a “credible fear” of persecution. A nationwide 93 percent pass rate—what a bureaucratic joke! With numbers like that, the majority of the rubber stamp-wielding asylum officer corps at Eduardo Aguirre’s Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) probably never met an alien they thought *wasn’t* credible.... Though the “credible fear” interview is required by current immigration law, releasing the aliens from immigration detention is not. And yet *Secretario* Ridge’s minions keep releasing more aliens into the U.S. anyway . . . every day....So let’s review. Why is the DHS releasing “credible fear” asylum applicants from immigration detention in the first place? Here’s the illogical but true answer: they’re being released so they can supposedly show up for EOIR Immigration Court hearings and continue hiding in the EOIR briar patch of perpetual litigation. In fact as we’ve seen, 97 percent of asylum applicants released from detention can disappear without a trace, never to be deported. But remember that, regardless of whether or not the aliens have a *bona fide* asylum claim, as long as they’re free inside the United States (courtesy of the DHS and EOIR), they’ll be feeding at the public trough. A great deal for the Treason Lobby and their alien charges!

--excerpt from an April 12 article by Juan Mann on VDARE.com’s website (the internet journal of the Center for American Unity).

“We are not ‘anti-immigrant’ any more than a couple with two children rather than fifteen is ‘anti-child.’”

--excerpt from the home page of ProjectUSA’s website

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Immigration Works! From the Grassroots

Colorado Chapter Chair, **Jeff Joseph**, was instrumental in helping to defeat state legislation that would have required the Governor to enter into a contract with the Attorney General with the purpose of requiring state law enforcement officers to enforce federal civil immigration laws. The Colorado Senate soundly voted down the measure (SB 210) on April 23. **Jeff's** efforts included educating lawmakers about why such legislation is ill-advised and testifying before both the Democratic Caucus and the Senate State Affairs Committee. Great work, Jeff!

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Are there restrictionist media campaigns or other activities being mounted in your local area? AILA wants to know! Please forward details to Danielle Polen in AILA's Advocacy Department (dpolen@aila.org), 202-216-2400.

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