



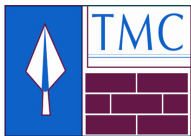
HOUSTON CHAPTER



AMERICAN
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Houston Chapter



WOMEN
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Texans For TxSIP

Sensible Immigration Policy

October 13, 2008

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas
Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Open Records Division
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

RE: RQ-732-GA

Dear General Abbott:

On behalf of Texans for Sensible Immigration Policy ("TxSIP"), the purpose of this letter is to express our support for and agreement with the October 3, 2008, Letter from Vinson & Elkins and the Texas Association of Business regarding opinion request RQ-732-GA.

There is no need to restate the sound legal arguments presented in the October 3, 2008, letter. However, we believe it important to note the dire consequences that await Texas if our state adopts legislation similar Arizona's anti-immigrant measures.

That is one of the blessings of our federal system. We can learn from the successes and failures of other states. By any economic or financial measure, Arizona's efforts have been negative.

Arizona business owner Jason LeVecke is telling the story of his state's new laws across the country. Jason's family started Carl's Jr. Restaurants, currently with 3,000 franchises. Just one year ago, Arizona had a budget surplus. Arizona now has a 17% deficit. Due to the new immigration laws, more than 40,000 construction workers have left the state.

Jason is in the fast food business. He will tell you that the fast food industry is usually recession-proof and often improves during difficult economic times, but not this time. Arizona is experiencing population decline.

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While some may consider that a success, those absent workers took \$1.5 billion out of the Arizona economy. Those absent workers have not resulted in any apparent savings for health care, education, transportation, or welfare. Those government programs just keep on increasing. But tax revenue has fallen.

Consider the testimony of Bill Post, CEO of Pinnacle West Capital Corporation, the parent company of Arizona Public Service (AZ's leading power company). He will tell you that based on the number of electrical sign ups and shut downs, Arizona is headed for negative growth for the first time since WWII.

Arizona mayors will tell you about the difficulties they are having convincing companies to stay in Arizona or recruiting new companies to come to Arizona. They are unwilling to risk losing their business licenses.

Perhaps Arizona's new immigration laws have been a "success" in one respect: They have been successful in driving businesses, employees, and tax revenue out of the state!

We need to solve the immigration crisis. However, the solution is going to have to come at the federal level. Arizona's example is not a road map. Arizona's example provides a warning. Texas should not follow Arizona's lead.

General, we realize that your office does not make public policy. You are charged with interpreting and enforcing our State's laws. We believe that V&E's October 3, 2008, letter effectively addresses the legal issues presented by Representative Cortez's letter. However, TxSIP believes that it is important to note the critical public policy issues linked with this decision. Thank you for your service to the Great State of Texas!

May God so move you! God bless Texas!

Sincerely,

Norman E. Adams
Co-Founder
Texans for Sensible Immigration Policy

NEA/dm

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