



Texas Masonry Council



Texans For Tx SIP

Sensible Immigration Policy

October 9, 2008

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711-2428

RE: Your Support for the new DPS Rule Checking Immigration Status

Dear Governor Perry:

I was disappointed to read your comments applauding the recent policy change by the Texas Department of Public Safety to start requiring proof of citizenship and legal status before obtaining or renewing a driver's license (*Houston Chronicle*, 10/09/08). The *Houston Chronicle* quoted you as saying: "Texas is a great place to live and work, and while we welcome legally documented individuals to the Lone Star State, we must ensure that this privilege is not abused by those seeking to enter our country illegally."

I was surprised by this because of your previous statements about "unrealistic and unenforceable" anti-immigrant measures. For example, on December 14, 2006, you made the following comments about securing the border:

But to me neither amnesty nor mass deportation is the answer. The first unfairly rewards those who broke our laws, and the latter is not only unrealistic and unenforceable, but it would devastate our economy. That's why I support a guest worker program that takes undocumented workers off the black market and legitimizes their economic contributions without providing them citizenship status.

I would rather know who is crossing our border legally to work instead of not knowing who is crossing our border illegally to work. A guest worker program that provides foreign workers with an ID removes the incentive for millions of people to illegally enter our country. It also adds those workers to our tax base, generates revenue for needed social services and it can be done without providing citizenship. [. . .] With a more secure border and a reasonable guest worker program we can allow guest workers to help build our economy without offering citizenship. Many don't even want to become citizens – they just want to provide for their families back home.

< <http://governor.state.tx.us/news/editorial/10326/> >

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As co-founder of Texans for Sensible Immigration Policy (TxSIP), I have never seen a better statement from any elected official about why we need sensible immigration reform! Governor Perry, what changed your mind?

Governor, you know the millions of immigrants that have come to Texas to fill jobs will not stop driving! Surely, you do not believe that it is a good idea that they will be unable to purchase auto insurance. Surely, you do not believe that more drivers without insurance is a good thing for Texas! Governor, this rule will encourage immigrants to flee the accident scene! This rule is premature because the Federal government has let us down.

This rule vividly demonstrates why state governments should avoid tackling immigration reform: anti-immigrant “feel-good” measures only compound the problem! Governor, please consider the unintended consequences that will surely flow from this new rule. This will force more workers further into the shadows. It will only exacerbate our problems with uninsured drivers. It will make Texas roads less safe.

I understand your frustration with the Federal government’s refusal to confront immigration reform. That is why I co-founded an organization that represents the construction industry, TxSIP. That is why TxSIP is helping to raise ten million dollars for the Greater Houston Partnership’s effort called “Americans for Immigration Reform” (AIR).

Governor, please visit with Public Safety Commission Chairman Allan Polunsky and ask him to reconsider his position on this issue. God gives us wisdom and the ability to think. Please sit down with Chairman Polunsky, apply that wisdom, and right this wrong!

May God so move you! God bless Texas!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Norman E. Adams" followed by a simple line drawing of a smiley face with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.

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