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Sanctuary City

Hearing your stand on immigration was so comforting. I've been so disappointed with the mean-spiritedness that is so prevalent in Va and parts of MD. I'm a D.C. resident but my heart belongs in Takoma Park. I think a bumper sticker to this effect would be a great idea.

Thank you for your stand on immigration and many other important issues. There is hope for America.

— Valerie Hoke
Washington, DC

In his letter to the editor published in the October issue of the Takoma Voice, Maurice Belanger argues that the City's obsolete sanctuary law for illegal immigrants should be retained because a large illegal immigrant population is needed in the city and elsewhere to perform low-skilled work and to assist with law enforcement efforts.

The notion that illegal immigrants are filling a low-skilled labor void caused by an aging and better-educated American population is a myth that has been debunked by numerous labor and immigration studies [see for example, the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), NumbersUSA, and the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR)].

The reality is that the low-educated/skilled American workforce is more than capable of meeting the low-skilled labor market demand (CIS, March 2004). The major impacts of massive illegal immigration on the low-skilled labor market have been displacement of large numbers of American citizens from these jobs and lower wages. Between 2000 and 2005, the number of unemployed low-skilled American citizens increased by an estimated 2 million. During the same time frame, the number of employed low-skilled illegal immigrants increased by an estimated 1.5 million (CIS, 2007).

Illegal immigrants have met with employment success due in large measure to their willingness to work for lower wages than native Americans. [Since many illegal immigrants pay no income or social security taxes, they are able to retain a larger portion of their wages than their fully taxed American counterparts. Employers also have less overhead to pay, since withholding to cover social security and other taxes, health care costs, etc. are significantly

I'm taking the plunge. How about you?

Get cold to stop global warming!

And have fun and raise money while you're doing it! Join thousands of concerned climate activists across the country as we jump into cold bodies of water.

On December 8th, we will be raising money and awareness and making clear our demand during this critical election season: Keep Winter Cold! Fight Global Warming!

The Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) has organized a "Bay Jump." CCAN held its first-ever Polar Bear Plunge in December, 2005, and raised \$12,000 with just 20 "jumpers." Demonstrating its potential, in just a single year the event more than tripled in size, with 75 participants jumping into the Chesapeake Bay in January 2007, generating a number of favorable news stories and \$40,000 in pledges.

Now it's time for you to gather pledges and get your bod in the bay. For more information, visit www.chesapeake-climate.org or www.keepwintercold.org. See you in the Chesapeake!

— Eric Bond
Publisher, Takoma Voice
Silver Spring Voice