🇺🇸 Common sense border control

Steve Bakke 🇺🇸 May 14, 2024

"No great nation can be in a position where they can't control their borders...not just for immigration, but for drugs, terror, a whole range of other things." – Then Senator Joe Biden in 2007

I've previously expressed my agreement with the republicans' decision to reject the recent border legislation. The final bill simply wasn't "as advertised." (refer to posting re border control legislation, dated March 2, 2024.)

Rather than controlling the border, the draft legislation had little to do with stopping human traffic. It was very much a clerical exercise to better keep track of those illegally entering the U.S.

The proposed legislation tolerated continued high levels of illegal immigration as long as it didn't exceed a seven consecutive day average of 5,000 encounters, or a single day of 8,500. Recall that the recent 7,000 average of daily encounters has been considered "out of control."

We can be sure the cartels would keep the illegal traffic within those constraints. They can't afford to lose the financial windfall from human and drug trafficking. And without a barrier, illegal immigrants could continue to choose to cross anywhere along the unfenced, uncontrolled open border.

What elements are required in a border bill that will enhance national security, facilitate smart immigration policies, and provide order for our vulnerable southern border? The keystone of will be a barrier wall – holding the system together and making it possible to enforce laws and carry out security and immigration policies.

President Trump had the right idea. It involved applying simple common sense – a barrier wall for slowing things down and sorting things out, enhanced by high tech and human surveillance. Democrats had previously supported similar border policies, but changed their minds when Trump made border control his central campaign promise.

Trump chose a "stop and sort" method rather than Biden's "whoops, better chase" approach. Biden immediately discontinued construction of the wall, handing control of the border crossings to the cartels and essentially putting up "welcome signs" for the world's criminals. Federal subsidies for illegal immigrants were provided just in case the initial "invitation" wasn't received.

A wall is not a medieval concept whose time has passed. Contrary to some border opponents' opinions, a border barrier isn't telling people to "keep out." Rather, it advises them simply to "find the door." The late Charles Krauthammer explained it like this: *"When you have a barrier to keep people in, that's a prison. When it's intended to keep people out, that's an expression of sovereignty."*

Some opponents predict that a wall would be breeched by large groups, with long ladders charging the wall, just like "storming the Bastille." That's nonsense! The wall will discourage undesirable illegal arrivals and facilitate order and a process for those who wish to comply with our immigration laws. This is accomplished by strategic use of human and technology resources in addition to the barrier.

But our wall should be much more than just a high-tech barrier tended by border control technology and personnel. For some reason, the current "helter-skelter" system is preferred by some. Strategies, policies, and rules are required to complete the overall framework. Briefly stated, the ideal framework should include immigration law enforcement, and reactivating what national security expert Todd Bensman labels "a diplomatic big stick" for dealing with other countries.

Immigration policy must be very specific about rules for asylum and take them seriously to prevent fraud. We must also make sure we provide guidelines for prioritizing our own high-need fields and professions. These rules should be clear, flexible, and include all levels of formal and technical training. Policies and rules must be unambiguous, followed faithfully, and laws must be enforced.

We must have an effective and enforced system of "E-Verify," up-to-date databases of international security threats, and we must use that information. Overall parameters and immigration levels must be set and followed. And it's time to find a humane solution to DACA immigrants to whom we've made many promises.

A border wall is the keystone for successful border security and immigration. There are many other moving parts to deal with, but the importance of a barrier wall can't be denied. Simon Hankinson summed it up well in his 3/28/24 article in The Daily Signal: ***"If you DON'T build it, they will come."***