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GOVERNOR

STATE OF UTAH
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Governor Herbert Calls for 'Thoughtful, Rational' Approach to Immigration Reform in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY – In a roundtable discussion on immigration reform Tuesday at the Utah Capitol, Governor Gary R. Herbert called for reason to guide discussions and action on illegal immigration in the State.

“As Governor, I want to see our state take a thoughtful and rational approach to immigration reform,” Governor Herbert said in his opening remarks. “Unfortunately, this is an emotional issue that some will try to politicize to our collective detriment. This is not a time for clever sound bites or political posturing. Instead, we must search for common ground.”

Governor Herbert invited 30 individuals to participate in the meeting, which was open to the press and the public. The participants were selected to provide a representative group of the state’s various communities of interest and differing points of view on the topic. In the first hour, participants were each given 90 seconds to make a statement, followed by a one-hour moderated question-and-answer session.

“The goal for today’s meeting is to encourage you, as some of the state’s key stakeholders, to really listen to each other. Listening is the first step to understanding, and it will lead to solutions,” the Governor said.

The complete list of participants for Tuesday’s discussion is:

1. Pamela Atkinson, Community Advocate
2. Lane Beattie, Salt Lake Chamber
3. Curt Bramble, Utah Senate
4. Ken Bullock, Utah League of Cities and Towns
5. Chris Burbank, Salt Lake City Police Chief

6. Peter Corroon, Salt Lake County Mayor
7. David Clark, Speaker, Utah House of Representatives
8. Lance Davenport, Commissioner, Utah Department of Public Safety
9. Brad Dee, Utah House of Representatives
10. John Dougall, Utah House of Representatives
11. Brent Gardner, Utah Association of Counties
12. Jon Greiner, Utah Senate
13. Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert
14. Pat Jones, Utah Senate
15. Terry Keefe, Utah Police Chiefs Association
16. Dave Layton, Layton Construction
17. Carlos Linares, Hispanic Advisory Council
18. David Litvack, Utah House of Representatives
19. Randy Parker, Utah Farm Bureau
20. Stan Rasmussen, The Sutherland Institute
21. Sean Reyes, Parsons, Behle & Latimer
22. Luz Robles, Utah Senate
23. Ross Romero, Utah Senate
24. Dee Rowland, Catholic Diocese of Utah
25. Stephen Sandstrom, Utah House of Representatives
26. Mark Shurtleff, Utah Attorney General
27. Kirk Smith, Washington County Sheriff
28. Michael Waddoups, President, Utah Senate
29. Carl Wimmer, Utah House of Representatives
30. Doug Wright, KSL Newsradio
31. Tony Yapias, Proyecto Latino

Governor Herbert concluded the two-hour discussion by issuing a charge for all participants – and all Utahns – to continue the spirit of respectful dialogue in their own communities.

“As we conclude, I ask you to reflect upon what you may have heard today that will enable you to be part of the dialogue – not just the debate – in upcoming weeks and months,” the Governor said. “I also ask that you take what we’ve done here today and replicate it in your communities of interest. Today should have been the beginning of an ongoing conversation in our state – one that should continue well beyond today.”

The complete text of Governor Herbert’s statements is available online at www.governor.utah.gov.

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Governor Gary R. Herbert
Immigration Roundtable Remarks
July 20, 2010

Introductory Statement

Good morning. Thank you for being here today to discuss immigration reform in the State of Utah. Although the challenges surrounding the issue of illegal immigration are significant, I have asked each of you to participate in this roundtable because they are not insurmountable.

Unfortunately, many of the problems we face today have been decades in the making.

For too long, the federal government has failed to secure our borders and has not developed a meaningful national immigration policy. The negative impact of these failures has been compounded by the reality that the federal government has not, in large part, chosen to enforce existing immigration laws.

Consequently, the number of immigrants who are in the United States illegally is creating societal challenges and costs that simply can no longer go unaddressed. Inaction by the federal government leaves individual states little choice but to enter the immigration reform dialogue. It is up to us to find innovative solutions for our unique illegal immigration problems.

I am often asked if I support the "Arizona law." Let me just say this: Utah is not Arizona. We are not a border state, and – while our concerns may be similar in some ways – Arizona has different challenges than we have here in Utah. My purpose is to focus on what is in *our* state's best interest, and how we – as Utahns – can collaborate to find appropriate solutions. I am not as concerned about the "Arizona law" as I am interested in the Utah solution.

As Governor, I want to see our state take a thoughtful and rational approach to immigration reform. Unfortunately, this is an emotional issue that some will try to politicize to our collective detriment. This is not a time for clever sound bites or political posturing. This issue is too important for that. Instead, we must search for common ground.

We cannot have misguided individuals releasing private information about people they suspect of living in our state illegally. The list of alleged illegal immigrants that was released last week by now former government workers did not enhance the cause of immigration reform – in fact, it did just the opposite: it divided our community at a time when we need to come together. The tactics used by the people who created the list are appalling and unacceptable.

I have asked each of you to meet today so that we can listen to thoughtful voices on all sides of the illegal immigration issue while avoiding the toxic rhetoric that will derail any possible progress. Accordingly, the participants and the agenda for today's meeting have been chosen as representatives of differing points of view on this issue.

This is not an exhaustive group, we know that there are others with a desire to participate and are qualified to be seated at this table. But I am confident that we have a representative group up here today that will help us generate dialogue on this issue – not just debate.

As a starting point, I submit some guiding principles that should be considered as we discuss immigration reform options:

1. There must be respect for the law. The Utah solution must acknowledge that U.S. citizenship – by birth or grant – requires reverence for and adherence to the law.
2. The federal government has a responsibility to secure our borders, to enforce immigration laws, and to draft meaningful immigration policy. The federal government must act.
3. There must be greater accountability from the private sector. Businesses must be responsible for establishing hiring practices that comply with the law to verify legal documentation of *all* workers.
4. The Utah solution should recognize and respect the humanity of all people. Immigration reform efforts must be fair, colorblind and race-neutral.
5. We must provide appropriate tools for law enforcement. The Utah solution must give law enforcement officers the ability, through resources and training, to enforce the law and to keep our communities safe.
6. We must relieve the burden on taxpayers. There are significant societal costs associated with illegal immigration that simply must be addressed. Our Utah communities, and our taxpayers, cannot be expected bear this financial burden.

The goal for today's meeting is to encourage you, as some of the state's key stakeholders, to really listen to each other. Listening is the first step to understanding and it will lead to solutions.

In a moment, I am going to ask each of you to address the group. You can say whatever you like, but I ask that you not take more than 90 seconds each. This arrangement will make sure that, in our first hour, everyone has an opportunity to make salient comments while also having plenty of time to listen. I encourage you to refrain from trying to debate statistics and instead focus on concepts and principles. Remember, today is a time to narrow the divide not to take advantage of it.

Now let me introduce Palmer DePaulis, who will moderate this roundtable discussion.

Closing Statement

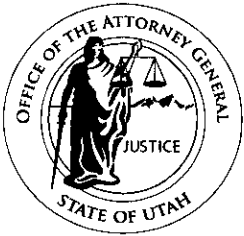
At the beginning of this meeting, I made a single request of each of you – that you spend most of your time today listening with the intent of coming together to find common ground solutions.

As we conclude, I ask you to reflect upon what you may have heard today that will enable you to be part of the dialogue – not just the debate – in upcoming weeks and months.

I also ask that you take what we've done here today and replicate it in your communities of interest. Today should have been the beginning of an ongoing conversation in our state – one that should continue well beyond today.

Please, take the time to truly listen – because, as I said earlier, listening is the first step toward understanding.

Thank you.



5 KEYS TO COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM PROPOSED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK SHURTLEFF

Immigration reform is one of the most important issues our state will ever face. Finding a solution needs to be an exercise in cooperation and compromise. In order to be real, successful and sustainable immigration reform must be comprehensive and multi-faceted. I therefore illustrate 5 key components that **MUST** be addressed in order to draw closer to a viable solution:

1. Secure the Borders

We must continue to insist that the federal government do its job of securing the border. Until that is done, an Arizona style “round ‘em up” law will only take state and local police officers away from their job of enforcing state law and keeping us safe, and those rounded up and deported will be right back.

2. Increase Security

Any solution must increase, not decrease the security of U.S. citizens. Making police officers immigration enforcers overburdens law enforcement while robbing them of the tools needed to protect our citizens. For example, my office has a Criminal Alien “SECURE” Strike Force that works with federal and local officers to aggressively go after the violent felons who are in our state illegally for the express purpose of violating Utah laws by dealing drugs, gang-banging, murdering, stealing identities and running fake ID mills. We rely on otherwise law-abiding undocumented aliens to cooperate with police in going after the “worst of the worst” who put us all at risk. In less than a year the strike force has arrested more than sixty of these dangerous criminal aliens.

3. Prioritize Legal Immigration

Recognizing that the job line is separate from the immigration line is a critical step toward providing a real and sustainable solution. Placing someone at the bottom of the job **AND** immigration lines, for crossing the border illegally or committing crime while he or she is here, creates an economic incentive to do the right thing.

4. Sustain Economic Growth

The root of the illegal immigration problem is economic. People come to this country and remain illegally in order to feed their families. In doing so they work hard and do jobs that are essential to our own economy. Any sustainable solution needs to address the needs of industry. Public policy that ignores the economic aspect is not sustainable. Creating economic incentives for industry and immigrants to do the right and legal thing is a sustainable public policy. Requiring E-verify must be paired with a legal guest worker program. I suggest a pilot program between Utah and interested Mexican states to use the current law to make legal, documented temporary immigrant workers available for those jobs that companies can prove cannot be filled with U.S. citizens.

5. Increase International Cooperation

Working cooperatively with Mexico and other nations whose citizens are coming to the U.S. is essential to a sustainable solution. It is in our best interest for these nations to prosper economically and politically so that their citizens will stay home. Actions perceived as anti-Mexican or anti-Latino drive a wedge between nations. We want to cooperate with our neighbors so they will secure their side of the border and provide incentives to their citizens to use the legal process already in place and encourage legal immigration and legal guest worker activity. Anti-Mexican rhetoric ignores the fact that the Mexican government is in a war against the drug cartels that has left over 20,000 dead. These drug cartels exist largely to support America’s insatiable drug habit, and U.S. weapons are being used by drug traffickers and other criminals to murder police and government officials. Joint efforts to win that war and help Mexico prosper are essential.