

DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM by Javier Ruiz Garcia
With a strategy for "*comprehensive immigration reform to fix the economy*"

Background: We know that the new Barack Obama administration used the topic of immigration reform as a campaign issue to win the Latino vote. Consequently, Hispanics are looking forward to a bill that is to be presented to the legislature by the end of 2009 or during 2010.

There are obstacles and agendas, which may prolong action on this bill. Border security between Mexico and the U.S. is a high priority of the Obama administration. The Obama administration must negotiate at least 60 votes in the Senate, and a majority in the House of Representatives. It is apparent that before the administration and the Senate can make decisions, they will inevitably have to wait for the Census 2010 results.

Consequently, we believe that the government strategy will be to complete the Census before attempting to negotiate immigration reformation.

** Delay in negotiating reform creates a new frustration for our aspirations. The bill's Dream Act, remains stuck in Congress in part because it lacks a strategy that supports negotiations. In response to this concern, we have designed this proposal. We believe it is important to avoid any contingency that may cause delays and at the same time, we desire to provide tools to achieve effectiveness during the negotiation.*

Why we believe that the government strategy will be to complete the Census before attempting to negotiate immigration reformation:

Census 2010, will provide data required for adoption of a law on immigration reform making it reasonable to negotiate the 60 votes required in the Senate and the required majority in the House of Representatives. All reform organizations must emphasize the importance of a complete count of Hispanics and the reliability of the information provided. We repeat, the census results will be crucial in determining the adoption of any immigration reform bill.

Hispanics must have a counter-strategy to diminish the delays and damage that would frustrate their agenda and aspirations for early immigration reform.

The proposed bill consists of "comprehensive immigration reform to fix the economy." Hispanics must develop the ability to combine the influence of the media, our various community organizations, our community leaders and our representatives in Congress. This can be accomplished by using the internet to create of a Community Immigrant Network (social network). In addition to providing a social platform for exchange of ideas, this network also allows us to send out a call for a virtual census that shelters sensitive demographic information. This virtual census is a first step toward assessing the impact of Hispanic immigrants on the American economy.

"Comprehensive immigration reform to fix the economy" provides means for migrants to put a shoulder to the effort to overcome the current economic recession. For this effort to become a reality, we must solve some problems that make immigrants reluctant to organize. We believe that these problems can be solved by technological resources that can create a willingness to collaborate.

Why use a Virtual Census?

Because of the fear of raids on migrant communities, many Hispanic immigrants, especially illegal immigrants that fear of detention, will not participate in the 2010 Census. This will corrupt the statistical reliability of the census.

Authorities responsible for approving the law on immigration reform must use census statistics based on incomplete data. Lacking information on the true scale of positive economic influence provided by the immigrant community, they will be reluctant to approve or put in effect positive legislation. In fact they may be influenced to pass negative legislation.

It is essential that Hispanics share actively in the 2010 Census. We have major challenges attracting the participation of the economically significant and elusive population of day laborers. What can be done to give them confidence to participate in a meaningful census? What methods can we use to unify and maintain communication with the respective agencies, media organizations and Community members?

To answer these concerns, individuals responsible for this project are appealing to multiple immigrant organizations offering them an opportunity to be supported by Wel-Fi. (Wel-Fi is a non-profit organization dedicated to "enabling financial well-being for emerging national, local and personal economies.")

Using a collaborative effort we have designed a technology platform to create a virtual community to record achievements and sacrifices of all Hispanic immigrants. It serves everyone by highlighting the economic impact of migrant remittances.

Accurate statistics regarding remittances can demonstrate the virtue of the immigrant economic model at home and abroad. Statistical proof of the positive impact of remittances in these times of economic crisis is an important tool for negotiating approval of the bill on immigration reform. It can have positive influence on members of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Immigrant Economic Model Description:

According to studies and data (IDB¹, INE², etc..) the Immigrant Economic Model, in times of crisis, is a model that is constantly put to the test under the most extraordinary economic tensions. Even so, this model proves to be robust and stable. This is especially

¹ Inter-America Development Bank

² Instituto Nacional de Estadística

true when the Immigrant Economic Model is compared with economic models implemented and financed by governments. Notably, the present recession and subsequent economic crisis, are indicators showing that government driven economic models have been proven to be inefficient.

The economic and social model of migrants is an example of economic stability that the financial world is beginning to recognize. Many countries benefit from transfers of money.

Preliminary data from IDB shows that despite crisis, remittances are stable. This and other examples, demonstrate the importance of communicating to the Obama administration, the need for its specialists to analyze the immigrant economic model. We are confident that the results demonstrate evidence of dedicated employment and financial stability in the face of the variable tensions and pressure. These result occur in spite of the fact that there is virtually zero investment in the economic health of the migrant community.

The merit found in these virtues is that the immigrant economic model is a meaningful means to save the economy during this time of crisis. This is especially true since this model is inherently self-sustaining and stable.

It is crucial to show the organizational power of migrants to demonstrate to the Obama administration that our aspirations are legitimate and that are willing to cooperate in meaningful immigration reform.

Fine or fee:

The details of the possible immigration reform are still up in the air. However, President Obama in his last interview with the popular activist Piolin Sotelo, said that plans could require applicants to pay a fine or fee to share the cost of regularizing their legal status. Discussions also call upon the stakeholders to commit to learn the English language.

The concept of a fee or fine can be turned into a solution for the benefit of the economy. Migrants could be directed to use a substantial portion of the required "FINE" as an initial payment (down payment) for the financed purchase of a new vehicle. This would benefit the auto industry and reduce the need for government subsidies for Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, etc. It is possible to direct reform fees to benefit the immigrant, industry and the overall economy. Migrants who do not want to purchase a car could be directed to use a portion of their fine or fee to make a down payment on a house. Funneling fees into affordable housing stimulates refurbishment or re-construction providing benefits to the migrant and an immediate solution to an industry experiencing collapse.

Draft bill on immigration reform to be reviewed by lawyers and by relevant institutions and organizations:

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Legally empowered Hispanic migrants can help solve the current economic crisis in the U.S. A. They need to be recognized for their contribution of responsible and intentional sacrificial solutions. To often they are seen as a cause of the current problems. Latinos represent a one third majority of immigrants in this country. They have a history of dedication and responsibility toward their families. Additionally, they have developed their own strategies and economic policies.

We propose a new bill for immigration reform and suggesting that the following points be considered and modified according to the articles and codes U.S. immigration law.

First

The Hispanic immigrants in the USA we are a community that as must advance. Unfortunately the lack of papers and work permits have blocked our aspirations for decent work. Despite these barriers, Latino immigrants make advances by their own efforts. They have created an economic model whose exemplary behavior, can be measured at internationally through the famous "shipment" of money remittances to several countries including Latin America. It is good to note that this immigrant economic system also benefit local economies because the migrants create ingenious work opportunities. Much of the time they can be found doing work that no one else wants to do. The majority of field workers and laborers are Hispanic. We must consider how this large labor force provides taxes revenue and economic health helping businesses develop especially in the areas of construction and cleaning. They have no medical insurance or social insurance. The system does not protect them and they are often victims of labor exploitation. Contributions to the treasury, in most cases are not reported accurately. Subsequently, tax returns are not collected and the tax revenue remains in the possession of the US government..

In summary, the economic model is based on immigrant talent, effort and human capital. Success is achieved with hard work and dedication. This provides value by expanding the economy while creating economic stability for migrants and their families, and indirectly, by helping the economies of several countries in Latin America.

Second

The economy is in crisis, but it is important to note that the crisis was not caused by workers, much less by the migrants. On the contrary this is a crisis caused by the inefficiency of factories and businesses and by banking officials who irresponsibly handled large sums of money. It is a problem of mismanagement. Thus, although this crisis has not yet bottomed out, it is because of the huge slaughter of migrants because contribute to our human capital and workforce. Besides bringing cultural diversity and ingenuity for the advancement of this country, 20 million Hispanics hold significant power in elections. There are many Hispanics combatants in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Third

Hispanic immigrant crime rates are well below those many ethnic groups that enjoy greater privileges. Many Hispanic youths immigrated to this country to study. It is essential to put on the table a Dream Act, a bill in Congress that, if approved, would give academic scholarships and other benefits to undocumented students Seeking to attend college in United States.

Fourth

Electoral support of the Obama administration must be recognized. It is also noted that Hispanics will negotiate directly with legislators from both parties (Democrats and Republicans). Before any bill is introduced into the legislature, the public must call and write to their representatives to explain the great need for immigration reform.

It is also important to explain to these representatives that the Hispanic economic model is working in the current moment crisis. We are providing direct support to the country helping to stabilize the economy. There are additional ways that the immigrants can be used by the administration to solve some of the economic crisis problems.

Fifth

Hispanics are a generally grateful community. When given the opportunity, they recognize and know ways to improve their communities. They cause fewer problems than noted by many. Historically it's they have stood next to the American people in their support reform initiatives while contributing to the overall progress of this country.

Details of the technical platform for the Community Immigrant Network (CIN)

It is a platform commonly known to internet users as social networking. It is adapted to become a community network to support the migrant. The objectives of this community network in includes giving migrants methods for communication, legal aid, and other information. It allows for the storage and organization of personal information to be used if needed during the process of immigration reform.

The Community Network also is designed to connect migrant organizations with community leaders. It provide services such as prepaid debit cards, contacts, and bank access for remittances. Financial transactions and other records from these activities are integrated into a protected data base used to develop a virtual census.

Virtual Census:

Hispanic immigrants in the USA are called to demonstrate the power of immigrant organization by submitting relevant information such as full name, age, sex, work experience, education, nationality, etc.. Eventually, this data will serve as a guide to the

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Census 2010. Contribution to this database will to show the number of people seeking the promised reform. Most importantly, the data will allow the negotiation of reform carried out under conditions favorable to the immigrant population.

Our Reform:

Using this tool, we can develop a reliable virtual model of our own bill providing guidelines and indicators to be submitted to appropriate authorities. Our work should become a template detailing meaningful reform. This virtual model addresses problems that impact the nation and is aimed at providing solutions. The outcome shows that we are contributing solutions and that we are not a problem. Therefore we propose reform based on the primary tool of our economic model. This model has been operating for a long time and its successes are reflected in the famous Remesas.

Data collected from this model, in addition to reflecting the benefits to the immigrant, can be used to develop lines of credit. In other words the monitoring these transactions and the appropriate use this information will allow lending institutions to grant credit to immigrants based evidence of their faithful use of the remittances. These indicators of stability could also be used in countries of origin for immigrants to obtain loans to buy houses for their loved ones.

Credit credibility:

The tools under development are shaped to help the migrant build credit and credibility for both personal and national economic recovery. It is therefore important to include in proposed legislation that we are willing to pay fees or fines but a portion of these payments should become an initial payment for the purchase of an American automobile. This will support the automotive industry. In the same manner fees can be used for the purchase of homes. Migrants are willing to buy affordable houses that need renovation. This housing can be owner improved or construction companies operated and managed by the migrants themselves can be developed to improve these properties. Additional efforts are needed to build the strength of the immigrant community via job training, English lessons, legal assistance, education, family reunification, etc. In summary, everyone can benefit from immigration reform that allows legal status for immigrants and enables them to further benefit the economy of the country in general.

To conclude:

It is important to note that this document is only a draft of a proposal that must be revised and refined in compliance with the immigration laws of this country. We have worked to protect and provide powerful arguments for congress and the Obama administration. We invite all organizations, community leaders and the general public to join this project.

Wel-Fi is a nonprofit organization dedicated to design of financial systems for people in need. Wel-Fi also facilitates the participation of migrants in the pursuit of their own

economic development. Digital copies of this paper and related information can be found at <http://wel-fi.com>

Javier Ruiz Garcia, is an immigrant who has lived in the U.S.A. for over 25 years. He is responsible for design engineering and integration of the technology platform referred to in this paper.