

07/2010

Re: Someone's Out of Touch...

Dear Editor,

Jerry Ritter (RG Letters, 7/10/2010) claims that our "leaders" and this newspaper are "out of touch" with the American people because they have called for "comprehensive immigration reform", but he presents no evidence to support his case. While it is easy to make such assertions, it is also easy to examine the data on such questions.

In fact, it is true that many Americans support the new Arizona immigration law, with recent polling from several sources indicating about 42 to 59% of Americans favoring the law and 32 to 20% opposed with the remainder unsure. However in a June ABC News poll, of Americans that were asked "Would you support or oppose a program giving ILLEGAL immigrants now living in the United States the right to live here LEGALLY if they pay a fine and meet other requirements?", 57% say they approve of such legislation with 40% opposed.

The same poll also showed that 52% of Americans said that immigration laws should be left to federal jurisdiction rather than individual states. Interestingly the Arizona Association of Police Chiefs agrees in a statement which concludes "...it is an issue most appropriately addressed at the federal level."

So it is clear that this is a somewhat divisive issue for the country as a whole, but Ritter himself is quite "out of touch" to claim that Americans are opposed to comprehensive immigration reform as proposed by the president and long supported by many on both sides of the aisle in congress.

John Donovan  
Eugene, OR