

Managing Illegal Immigration

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Body

The July 8 editorial "Hounding Immigrants" said Prince William County's neighbors would be harmed by a crackdown on illegal immigrants and asked: "What would be accomplished by such a beggar-thy-neighbor policy?" I think the answer is obvious -- neighboring counties will see the quality of life in Prince William improve and see their own problems with illegal immigration increase.

Those counties will respond by passing similar measures, which will send illegal immigrants to other jurisdictions, which in turn will pass similar measures or suffer the consequences of more illegal immigration.

As a resident of Montgomery County, I will be watching the Prince William County housing market closely. My bet is that quality of life will go up and that housing prices will follow.

MICHAEL J. AMERY

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In his July 8 op-ed, "Arizona's Border Burden," about illegal immigration, David Broder wrote that new state legislation "requires every Arizona business to verify the legal status of each new employee. That's also a requirement of long-established federal law, but the feds rarely enforce it."

If that requirement really exists under federal law, why isn't it enforced? The availability of jobs is a major part of the appeal for folks to enter this country, legally or illegally. If we discourage business owners from employing people who are in this country illegally, that would have a significant impact on the problem. This also raises the question of the viability of additional federal legislation: If the U.S. government does not enforce the current laws, why should we think that new laws will have any greater effect against illegal immigration?

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