

READERS RESPOND: Government has right to bar illegal workers

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Byline: JAMES NEWMAN, BRUCE WILCOX, EDWARD A. WATKINS

For the Journal-Constitution

Body

We need to support Gwinnett County Commissioner Lorraine Green in her proposal to keep illegals from doing contract work for the county. There is a major reason for this.

In the history of our country, it has been against our laws to come into our country without authorization (hence, the term "illegal").

Therefore, if someone is here illegally, they are lawbreakers.

Since government --- any government (federal, state, county, city) --- is there to establish and enforce laws, how in the world does it make sense for the government to condone lawbreakers by hiring them either directly or indirectly (through subcontractors).

It doesn't matter how many lawsuits there are or who's filing them ... our laws are being broken. The government would be breaking the law further by aiding and abetting the lawbreakers. How in the world can that government expect the people to abide by any other laws?

A government that does not enforce the law is no government at all. What good is a government that does not govern?

JAMES NEWMAN, Lawrenceville

Baseball stadium just old idea remixed

A couple of years ago, the commissioners came down from their annual meeting on the mount with the idea that a baseball stadium would solve all of Gwinnett's woes. I believe it was the only idea shared with the public after this taxpayer-funded holiday in the mountains.

If I recall correctly, the idea wasn't all that well received; why waste millions on a stadium for a AAA team when we have the real Braves so close by?

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Now we see that Gwinnett will be getting a AAA baseball team, a training camp for the pros, arriving in 2009. Where will they play? Gwinnett County is designing and building a stadium (anticipated cost: \$45 million), which the Braves will rent for \$250,000 a year.

Maybe it's me, but it sounds like the same idea that a certain commissioner had a couple of years ago, except this time the team came first?

Funny how things work out that way.

BRUCE WILCOX, Lilburn

If 'Brain Train' is a solution, prove it

In the Sunday edition of AJC Gwinnett News, Emory Morsburger, a long-standing proponent of the so-called "Brain Train," that would run from Athens to Atlanta, called for General Assembly action on this project ("Note to legislative delegation: Help!," AJC Gwinnett Opinions, Jan. 13). Mr. Morsburger believes that commuter rail would help relieve traffic congestion.

Despite the hype, propaganda and "studies," many believe the so-called "Brain Train" will have little or no impact on congestion on major arteries and none on other roads and streets during morning and evening drives, while becoming a drain on taxpayer dollars in perpetuity.

The proponents of the "Brain Train" should be honest with the public and admit that no one knows whether it will succeed, that it is an experiment which they are willing to subject to an objective assessment. This project would be authorized on the condition that it is an experiment that would run for three years after the line becomes operational.

Criterion for evaluation would include actual ridership, net revenues and reduction of congestion on major routes such as I-85 and U.S. 78. A disinterested organization would be hired to conduct the assessment, and the project would be subject to reauthorization or cancellation depending on results.

Commuter rail may or may not be effective in the Atlanta area. If proponents of the "Brain Train" are confident in commuter rail as a partial solution to the congestion problem, they certainly ought to be willing to prove, objectively, that it is viable.

If so, it will be a valuable addition to transportation resources in this area. If not, it will avoid a costly drain on tax dollars.

EDWARD A. WATKINS, Lilburn

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