



FAIR FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

Immigration REPORT

MAY 2011

Hold Their Feet to the Fire 2011: 48 Talk Radio Hosts Come to Washington to Discuss Immigration

President Obama has spent the early months of 2011 stirring the pot in hopes of reviving efforts to enact amnesty for millions of illegal aliens. He has met with an assortment of illegal alien advocacy groups, business interests, and Hollywood celebrities to show his support for their agenda. He, and many congressional leaders, have shown little interest in hearing from the American people, so, for two days in early April, FAIR and 48 talk radio hosts from all across the country sent them a not-so-gentle reminder: The American people demand to be heard on immigration policy.

such event to date. Filling four ballrooms of the Phoenix Park Hotel on Capitol Hill, the radio hosts filled the nation's airwaves with discussions about immigration policy, beginning before dawn and continuing long after the sun had set.

Dozens of members of Congress, state and local government officials, law enforcement officers, former high level government officials, and policy experts had the opportunity to speak directly to millions of American radio listeners about virtually every aspect of immigration policy. Hold Their Feet to the Fire enabled listeners to learn about

For the fifth time, FAIR organized Hold Their Feet to the Fire — an event that brings some of the nation's leading talk radio personalities to Washington, where they spend two days interviewing lawmakers and policy experts about all aspects of immigration. With 48 radio hosts in attendance, Hold Their Feet to the Fire 2011 was the largest



FAIR PRESIDENT DAN STEIN TALKS IMMIGRATION REFORM WITH KMJ-RADIO HOST INGA BARKS AND CENTRAL CALIFORNIA LISTENERS.

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2011 We The People Award Recipient: Julie Aldrich, The People's Leadership Award. Paul Babeu, The People's Sheriff

Hold Their Feet to the Fire is an event designed to provide a thoughtful forum for discussion of an important national issue. But it is also an opportunity for FAIR and the immigration reform movement to celebrate accomplishments and to pay tribute to people who have made an extraordinary contribution to the effort.

In conjunction with Hold Their Feet to the Fire each year, FAIR holds a reception providing FAIR staff, ac-

tivists, broadcasters and members of Congress an opportunity get to know each other better. FAIR also uses this social event as an opportunity to present an award to an activist whose work and dedication has made a real difference in the immigration reform effort.

In 2011, the winner of the People's Leadership Award was Julie Aldrich, an activist from Northeast Ohio. Julie has built and led a network of similarly dedicated citizens, known as the Ohio Grassroots Rally Team, who are shaking things up in Ohio. These activists cross the state, educating the public about the impact of unchecked illegal immigration, and demanding action from state lawmakers to address the concerns of fellow Ohioans. Julie and her group have become fixtures in Columbus, the state capital, where they routinely hold lawmakers' feet to the fire.



JULIE ALDRICH,
2011 PEOPLE'S
LEADERSHIP AWARD
RECIPIENT
(LEFT)

FAIR WELCOMES
SHERIFF PAUL BABEU,
PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA
(RIGHT)

Hold Their Feet to the Fire was also an opportunity to showcase some rising stars in the immigration policy debate. Perhaps none of the guests who traveled to be part of the event attracted more attention than Pinal County, Arizona, Sheriff Paul Babeu. Sheriff Babeu is the chief law enforcement officer in the sprawling Arizona county that abuts the U.S.-Mexico border. His department, and the people who elected him, live with the consequences of the federal government's failure to protect our borders and enforce most immigration laws.

Sheriff Babeu was a favorite guest of the talk radio hosts and the keynote speaker at the Hold Their Feet to the Fire reception. His authentic voice as an elected official and a law enforcement professional mark him as one of the new and influential figures in the immigration reform movement.

**Immigration
REPORT**

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HOLD THEIR FEET TO THE FIRE *continued*

what is happening in Washington and around the country on immigration policy. The medium of talk radio also affords ordinary citizens an opportunity to make their voices heard and to pose questions to elected representatives and policy experts.

The event, which took place April 6 and 7, presented a stark contrast to the one-sided policy discussion being orchestrated by the Obama administration. While the White House has become an echo chamber for an assortment of special interests that want amnesty for illegal aliens and massive increases in legal immigration to the U.S., Hold Their Feet to the Fire welcomed all viewpoints, especially those of ordinary citizens who tuned in to hear an honest and open debate about an important public policy issue.

In addition to the broadcast portion of Hold Their Feet to the Fire, FAIR also arranged two days of lobbying for activists who came to Washington to speak directly to their elected representatives. These dedicated immigration reform activists visited hundreds of House and Senate offices to discuss their concerns about immigration, and to remind these elected officials that the interests of the American people must take precedence. The FAIR activists who came to Washington were joined by a contingent of radio listeners from San Diego who accompanied talk radio host Roger Hedgecock. Hedgecock again served as co-sponsor of this year's Hold Their Feet to the Fire.

The success of Hold Their Feet to the Fire is also a testament to the work that FAIR has done over many years. FAIR's reputation as a reliable source of information and commentary, and credible representative of the interests of the American people in the immigration debate, made it possible to attract 48 talk hosts — including several who are nationally syndicated — and dozens of high profile guests to participate in the event.

Bob Dane and Kristen Williamson of FAIR's Media department deserve special recognition for organizing every detail of the two-day event. Special thanks also goes to Steve Kirsch and his team of audio engineers at Silver Lake Audio for the flawless technical service that got, and kept, 48 radio programs on the air for two days. FAIR also appreciates the efforts of the staff of the Phoenix Park Hotel for accommodating the needs of the broadcasters and invited guests.



BROADCASTERS, EXPERTS AND IMMIGRATION REFORM ACTIVISTS FILL THE PHOENIX PARK HOTEL.

Hold Their Feet to the Fire

Dozens of members of Congress, state and local government officials, law enforcement officers, former high level government officials, and policy experts had the opportunity to speak directly to millions of American radio listeners about virtually every aspect of immigration policy.

Some prominent guests included:

- **Sheriff Paul Babeu**
Pinal County, Arizona
- **Rusty Fleming**
Director, "Drug Wars"
- **Sheriff Charles A. Jenkins**
Frederick County, Maryland
- **Kris Kobach**
Secretary of State, Kansas
- **Daryl Metcalf**
Pennsylvania State Representative and founder of State Legislators for Legal Immigration
- **Mark Spencer**
President, Phoenix Law Enforcement Association
- **Tom Tancredo**
Founder, Team America PAC and former congressman
- **Julie Myers Wood**
Former Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security





White House Renews Posturing for Illegal Alien Amnesty

As President Obama officially launched his 2012 reelection bid, the White House began ratcheting up efforts to promote amnesty for illegal aliens in an effort to shore up support from Hispanic voters. Throughout April and early May, President Obama and senior administration officials held a series of meetings designed to build political support for legislative action on amnesty, and to explore unilateral action the administration might take to allow illegal aliens to remain in the United States.

In mid-April, the president held a White House meeting with “senior administration officials and stakeholders” about immigration policy. According to a White House statement, the purpose of the meeting was to “discuss how we can work together to foster a constructive national conversation on this important issue as we work to build a bipartisan consensus in Congress.”

Conspicuously absent from the list of “stakeholders” at the April 19th meeting were individuals or organizations representing the interests of the most important stakeholders in U.S. immigration policy: the American people. Every single one of the “stakeholders” invited to participate supports the president’s vision of immigration reform — amnesty for illegal aliens, significant increases in legal immigration, and government promises to enforce immigration laws more effectively in the future.

Representing business “stakeholders” were John Engler, president and CEO of the Business Roundtable; Greg Page, chairman and CEO of Cargill; and Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook. The open-borders left was represented by Al

Sharpton of the National Action Network and John Podesta, CEO of the Center for American Progress. Among the pro-amnesty political leaders in attendance were New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and former



Photo: The White House/Pete Souza

IN 2008, MR. OBAMA PLEDGED THAT AS PRESIDENT HE WOULD LISTEN TO ALL SIDES IN IMPORTANT POLITICAL DEBATES — ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH HIM. AS YET, PRESIDENT OBAMA HAS NOT MET WITH THOSE WHO OPPOSE HIS POSITION ON AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS, OR WHO FAVOR REDUCTIONS IN IMMIGRATION.

Florida Senator and current JP Morgan Chase executive, Mel Martinez.

The “stakeholders” meeting was followed a week later by a second White House meeting designed to add star power to the president’s amnesty effort. Hispanic Hollywood celebrities Eva Longoria, Rosario Dawson, and America Ferrera were among those who attended the April 28th meeting at the White House. The meeting, which was closed to the press, also included Univision news anchor Maria Elena Salinas and Telemundo anchor Jose Diaz-Balart, who have openly assumed the roles of political advocates rather than objective journalists.

Less than a week later, on May 3, President Obama met with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Cau-

cus members pressed the president to institute what, in effect, would amount to amnesty by executive order. Hispanic lawmakers demanded that the administration halt deportations of individuals who might have qualified for the DREAM Act amnesty, and the parents of U.S.-born children. Senior administration officials argued that the president does not have the constitutional authority to exempt entire categories of illegal aliens from removal, but that the White House was considering a range of options.

In 2008, Mr. Obama pledged that as president he would listen to all sides in important political debates — especially to those who disagree with him. As yet, President Obama has not met with those who oppose his position on amnesty for illegal aliens, or who favor reductions in immigration. The overt policy of the administration to exclude from the debate those who disagree with him highlights the importance of FAIR’s Hold Their Feet to the Fire. Once again, this year’s event provided an essential platform for the voices of the majority of Americans to be heard.

Barletta Emerging as Congressional Leader for True Immigration Reform

As mayor of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, Lou Barletta became a national figure for his efforts to enforce laws against illegal immigration. As a freshman member of the 112th Congress, Barletta is rapidly emerging as a leader for true immigration reform at the federal level.

At a May 4th Capitol news conference, Rep. Barletta announced the formation of the 112th Congress' Immigration Reform Caucus to be made up of freshman members. Barletta said that his Pennsylvania constituents "sent me here to fix our broken immigration system." He also noted: "All across the country, the American people voted in new members of Congress and gave them the same order: Fix what's broken." Responding to that mandate, the freshman caucus would work to "devise some real solutions" to the nation's failed immigration policies.

At the same news conference, Barletta also announced the drafting of his first legislative effort, known as the Mobilizing Against Sanctuary Cities Act. The bill would withhold federal funding from cities that refuse to cooperate with, or impede the enforcement of U.S. immigration laws. Barletta's legislation



would put teeth into a federal law that prohibits cities from declaring themselves sanctuaries for illegal aliens. According to the Pennsylvania Republican, there are more than a hundred sanctuary cities around the country. Barletta has also requested that the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service calculate how much each of the sanctuary cities receives in federal funding. Cities that openly defy federal immigration laws "should not receive millions, or even billions, in tax dollars as a reward," Barletta declared.

Illinois Defies Federal Immigration Authority by Withdrawing from Secure Communities Program

In early May, President Obama's home state of Illinois all but stripped his administration of the tiny fig leaf it has used to conceal its non-enforcement of U.S. immigration laws. Gov. Pat Quinn announced May 4 that the state was formally withdrawing from the Secure Communities program, which requires that the fingerprints of all people booked by police be checked against a federal database for immigration violations. Illinois entered the program in 2009, but suspended its use last November. Participation in the Secure Communities program will be mandatory for all jurisdictions beginning in 2013.

Gov. Quinn and other opponents of immigration enforcement claim that the Secure Communities program is resulting in the deportation of illegal aliens who do not have criminal records. About one-third of the illegal aliens deported from Illi-

nois under Secure Communities had no criminal convictions. California is also considering withdrawal from the Secure Communities program.

FAIR strongly supports full implementation of the Secure Communities program, even as it has been a harsh critic of the administration's refusal to enforce laws against noncriminal illegal aliens. While Secure Communities is specifically designed to identify and remove criminal aliens, there is no reason why illegal aliens without criminal convictions should not also be deported. Contrary to the apparent position of the Obama administration and advocates for illegal aliens, illegal aliens do not need to have committed other offenses in order to be removed from the country.

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Charity Navigator has awarded FAIR four out of a possible four stars. In earning Charity Navigator's highest rating, FAIR has demonstrated exceptional financial health, outperforming most of its peers in its efforts to manage and grow its finances in the most fiscally responsible way possible



Our funding relies on the personal contributions of individual citizens and philanthropic foundations. Your support is crucial to our ability to improve border security, stop illegal immigration, and promote immigration levels consistent with the national interest.

Cornerstone Contributors are the building blocks of FAIR's citizen-supported foundation. Time and time again, through their continuing support they have become key officers in our battle to end the destructive mass immigration that is debilitating our great nation.

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