

To Mr. Richard Lugar:

America's policies should reflect the citizen's values. This necessitates an alteration to the current administration. For example, America has always taken the passenger seat with regards to environmental regulations and controls. It is time for America to take the wheel, leading the world with stricter regulations and controls, rather than resisting these changes. We acknowledge that such a change will provide a challenge for businesses; however, the short-term losses will be quickly compensated by the immeasurable long-term gains.

Likewise, America's nuclear stance has been less than admirable. Attempts to disarm in the past have been fantastic failures (even resulting in accelerated build-ups rather than declines). However, we should not let past failure deter us from encouraging the disarmament of the country now. No doubt destroying all nuclear weapons and relying on the good faith of other nations to do the same would be foolish; however, we have far greater nuclear capacity than is necessary. One only needs the ability to destroy the world once, not several times over. So, a reduction of several thousand nukes would be more than acceptable and help our global image.

Furthermore, the nation's immigration policy is outdated and unwise. Immigrants need to be encouraged rather than discouraged from entering the country. Illegal immigrants have consistently been an issue for our nation because they often create financial nightmares through taxation complications. To fix this, legal immigration should become much, much easier. As legal, law-abiding citizens, they will be obligated to pay taxes and be no greater burden on society than any born and naturalized citizen.

In addition, America's trade policies should be fairer for all parties. Currently, agreements labeled "free trade" and "fair trade" are often anything but free and fair. No doubt, these trade agreements help American business to triumph in the short term, perhaps even in the long term. However, the cost of these moves may be far more than the gain. What good is dominating a local market to the point that no one can afford the product? By destroying the economies of other nations, we limit market potential in the grander scheme.

No doubt, America's current economic instability will prevent the previous views from being taken seriously. In an attempt to reclaim the nation's former glory and economic prosperity, many citizens will opt to be more ruthless with neighboring countries, less conscious of the environment, and more fearful of job competition with immigrants, resulting in harsher immigration control. However, it is in times of strife, not prosperity, when the will of the people can be rallied most effectively for change; so, we urge these views be considered now, before it is too late.

Sincerely,

McCutcheon Capitol Forum Team