

# WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE? Guest editorial by Bob Marcom

Bob Marcom is from Antioch, Tennessee and originally wrote this letter to his Senator and Representatives. He ultimately sent it to his family and friends for comment and it is reprinted here by permission.

To put my following opinions in perspective, I am 67 years old and still working full time as a small business owner and in senior management in a company doing international business. I live quite modestly. I do not belong to any political group; am not a member of any type of activist organization; and have not contributed money to any group. My opinions are mine. I did not copy them from anyplace else. I do read the newspaper, read news on the Internet and watch television news. I am worried and concerned like I have never been before. Here's what I think:

1. CIA and other security agencies – Leave them alone! Let them do their job without fear of reprisal from the Obama administration. I am willing to run the risk of America being accused of 'water-boarding' or whatever in exchange for being safe.

2. Afghanistan – Get in or get out for crying out loud. What about the promises of finding Bin Laden made by the president? And, that he said that the real war is in Afghanistan? Stop making unrealistic promises! Although, I feel that we should go in there aggressively and win.

3. Czars – Get rid of them. This is dangerous because they are not accountable to anyone and it has the potential to lead to simply more government. Look at the choices that this president has made for cabinet members, confidantes and czars. It's overloaded with cronies, crooks and anti-Americans. I am disgusted with President Obama's lack of ability to make good choices.

4. Bailouts – Are you kidding? Bailouts of auto manufacturers, banks, and any other financial institutions are a ridiculous waste of my money. Period. Let the free enterprise system work, please.

5. Healthcare – Don't get me started! My current health insurance is just fine. I am happy with the service and cost. I have had several major surgeries and it was just fine. I am infuriated at the thought that it might change so that I pay for those who either don't deserve it or don't want it. But, I understand that some improvements are needed. Just get the government out of the healthcare business and remove the regulations preventing insurance from being sold nationwide; and then put some controls on lawsuits and the cost will come down. If I figure out that the AARP is really talking out of both sides of their mouth and they are in cahoots with this administration to gut my healthcare - which I love - I will work diligently and lead the charge through the Internet to see that everyone I know turns in their AARP card. This is not a threat. It's a commitment. To make matters worse, it appears that the current administration wants to prevent health insurance providers such as Humana [my former carrier] and Blue Cross/Blue Shield [my current provider] from communicating with me regarding versions of the proposed new health care bill. I think the Obama government underestimates the 'call to arms' that these kinds of tactics can create with us as free-thinking Americans.

I do not want any type of single payer system. I do not want any program that dictates that all citizens must have health insurance or face a fine. I do not want the government doing a triage on health care services. I want to go to the

doctor that I feel provides the best care for me. I don't want my health insurance provider or myself to have to pay higher healthcare costs because the liability insurance for my doctor is unnecessarily high due to the excessive number of lawsuit awards.

6. Energy – the Cap and Trade bill [Waxman-Markey] is crazy and makes no sense. My step-father spent 30 years in Southern California as the head weather forecaster and he says that the discussion about climate change is silly. It's merely another cycle. There's more evidence that we are cooling than there is politically motivated junk science about heating. Regarding our energy dependence and usage: I believe we should be actively exploring other energy sources beyond oil. However, we have enough oil in North America to supply 100% of our domestic needs for decades. Let's use it while we explore and implement the options. We have the inmates running the ship when it comes to our environmental policies.

7. Building – The new 2009 energy codes are going to kill housing in the U.S. let alone destroy our log home/wood home industry.

8. Small business – We are being taxed and regulated to death. We are the ones who create jobs! The government does not create jobs.

9. President Obama – I want a president who is presidential and not one who is a news hound and values being on nighttime comedy shows as much as doing the work of the president at a time when we have some tough issues to face. "Forget the glam and glitter and get to work" is what I think. I want a president who tells the truth! I want a president who stands up to bullies, crooks and terrorist worldwide. I don't want a president who thinks that disarming

America, apologizing and groveling for past 'sins' of U.S. administrations, and smoking the peace pipe with enemies is the way to a safer America. It's not.

I want a president who does not need to be a media star. I do not want my grandkids signing songs about President Obama. I am very excited about having a black president of the United States. But I actually worry that because of Obama's deceitfulness, blatant cronyism, arrogance in making promises that are not kept, and likely were never intended to be kept, his alliance to foreign governments and his non-Christian traditions, that he has tainted the people in America to electing another black president for decades.

His passive condoning of the media and other activists in announcing that every criticism is racially motivated is a horrible miscalculation of how tolerant, color-blind and accepting we are as Americans.

10. I can't trust this government! I can't believe anybody. That is a serious breakdown in the moral fiber of this country at the very top. Among the reasons is that President Obama has brought in crooks, socialists and liars into his cabinet and inner circle. This is not an accusation, it's simply a fact. Stop it already! History will not judge you well even if you think that you're powerful enough that we should place blind-faith in you.

11. Taxes – I want my taxes to go down and not up. I am a small businessman and robbing my retirement, over regulating my business and shifting tax responsibilities to me is just making it worse. I want less government, not more government. I want to expand, not retreat. I would really favor a flat tax and elimination of our bizarre tax code. Let's not ignore that the IRS cannot agree on their own code anymore, there's a whole industry built on trying to figure out what's what. Isn't that crazy?

12. Financial Crises – The past Democrat controlled Congress going back to the Clinton administration [including Obama as a senator] created the financial meltdown in lending. Sure the Bush administration did their fair share. So suck it up and quit falsely blaming somebody else and quit making it worse.

13. Education – My sister and sister-in-law and some of my best friends were teachers for decades. The focus on 'student's rights' and unions are awful. The politically amplified curriculums are outrageous. The lack of accountability for quality teachers defies common sense. The emphasis is not on reading, writing and math. The requirement to teach English as a Second Language to a dozen language groups in one school is nuts. What happened to the fact that we are ALL Americans and in American we speak English? If you don't then learn. We are a Christian nation [not Muslim, Buddhist or Jewish...although we welcome and tolerate those of other faiths], quit trying to act like we are not. Our pledge is to the United States ...'One nation under God' so don't go monkeying with that either.

14. Program spending [Pork] – It seems to me that there a hundreds - probably thousands - of programs that receive federal tax dollars for silly, non-essential, inappropriate, politically motivated, unnecessary or deceitful reasons. There are bridges to nowhere. There is support for 6 spiders [or something or other] that prevents farmers from getting needed water. There is support for people building homes in places it's going to flood. And, people are building homes in places where the brush is going to burn and they think it is not. But I am all for the U.S. Forest Service and our fantastic National Parks. We are just lacking in common sense.

15. My personal rights – I travel quite a bit and while the airport security measures can be bothersome at times and irritating at others, if I am safer, I don't mind. In fact, I believe that it's likely our airport security is probably still full of holes and that disturbs me. Racial profiling is again just common sense here folks. I can tell you that in the last month of air travel I have seen old people and children searched. I have personally seen 4 oz of toothpaste confiscated while large pocket knives went through? Huh? Yes, that's right.

16. Government secrecy – When I had a lot more confidence in our government, I felt that it was fine if my government did not disclose everything to me. But now that trust in our political leaders has eroded, they think that the right thing to do is to have this big open record policy. I don't like this. That's not the way to earn my trust again.

17. America – As I travel internationally, people still love Americans as much as ever, I feel. However, the current administration's direction seems to be to make excuses and apologies for America and show too many signs of weakness. While Russia is regaining strength we are becoming weak. I am embarrassed and angry at the same time. I think we should have renewed pride in America, our Pledge of Allegiance and our flag.

18. Stupid programs – There are so many silly, wasteful, pork-barrel programs that seem to have a life of their own no matter how absurd that it's incredible. All the way from funding airports and airlines in small communities where there's about 300 passengers a month to funding research on some obscure forest creature to unneeded bridges. Sure there are exceptions; however, where is the common sense here?

19. Illegal Aliens – For years I worked with Mexicans and love them. I have dealers for our company who are Mexicans living in Mexico. I speak some Spanish and I love Mexican food. But I will not pay for the healthcare of Mexican men, women and children who sneak into the United States illegally. I do not think that I, as a tax payer, should support any kind of free or government supported health care for them. Not a penny! However, I am fine with a system in which they pay the regular price without insurance for whichever health services they wish or need; whether it's natal care, emergency room care, family medicine, specialized services, dental or eye care. Works for me if they want to pay for services here in America. Do you think if I zip across the border to Mexico or Canada, they'd paid for medical care for me? Heck no!

The whole issue of illegal aliens in this country is difficult, as I well understand, because they are often willing to work for less money than others are. It's tempting from an employer's standpoint. They provide a needed labor source in some industries such as agriculture. However, they should be documented and legally here under some kind of permit. If not, we should use all means to prevent them from entering the country and should have a very speedy deportation system when we catch them. If we need a larger better financed INS system, great, do it. It's going to cost us one way or another.

I am definitely against any kind of amnesty program under any terms. There is no circumstance in which I would favor that. I realize the sensitivity of our relationship with Mexico and the impact of workers in America on their economy. However it's difficult to be sympathetic with a government influenced by rampant drug financed corruption.

My sister said yesterday, "Very nice. But what am I supposed to? What can I do?"

Well, staying informed and ranting to your friends and/or family might make you feel better but the fact is, it does not change anything or anybody who is an influencer. So understand that you are either the wind or you're the dry leaf. Decide which and don't complain if you end up in the neighbor's yard. I don't have any special insight or list of to-do's from some talk radio host or website. There probably are better suggestions but here are mine:

1. Get informed and stay informed.
  2. If you have never communicated with the people that are elected to your state or federal positions - whether you voted for them or not - Do It Now! Hold them accountable to your opinion.
  3. Join a group such as a Political Action Committee, political party or activist organization. Suck it up. Remember you are either the wind or the leaf.
  4. Identify and support with your time and/or your financial resources those people and groups that are right for you.
  5. Know what your kids and grandkids are hearing in school.
  6. Let your local media know that you will not watch or support the advertisers of news programs that do not present news fairly. Support the news programs and advertisers that do present news and information fairly and completely.
- I have decided that now is the time for me to take these six steps and I encourage you to decide whether you are blowing or you are tumbling along: Are you the wind or the leaf?
- Let's make America like the country we grew up in. I still think Ronald Reagan was the best contemporary leader we've ever had. Well, along with John Wayne and Abraham Lincoln of course.

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