

DEVIN NUNES

UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN, CALIFORNIA
21ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ★ ★ ★ ★



Drug eradication on public lands: cartels operating in forests

In part by virtue of their accessibility, American forests are increasingly becoming a home to criminals and foreign drug cartels. Indeed, national forests are a major battleground in our nation's war on drugs. Tightened border security has made it harder for traffickers to move drugs from Mexico across the southwest border, spurring producers to move their operations north into U.S. territory and closer to their market.

Demonstrating the severity of the problem, national forests have become the largest domestic source of marijuana cultivation. In the past year, the Forest Service has witnessed skyrocketing crime rates on public lands. We are now faced with more drugs finding their way to the streets, ecological harm to public lands, and violent activity in parks and forests which pose serious threats to public safety. With the street value for high-grade marijuana sometimes exceeding that of cocaine, the financial incentives for producers are enormous.

Nowhere is the problem greater than in California, specifically the Central Valley. Since 1997, the Forest Service has eradicated seven million pounds of marijuana grown in federal national forests within California. In Sequoia, Stanislaus, and Sierra National Forests alone, 215,523 plants were pulled in 2006 at an estimated street value between \$646 million and \$1.2 billion.

In light of this information, Congressman Nunes contacted Under Secretary Mark Rey with the Department of Agriculture, who agreed to provide him an action plan by the end of July. The plan will outline steps that will be taken to address the marijuana problem in California, primarily in the Central Valley. Furthermore, Under Secretary Rey agreed to visit the 21st Congressional District in August to examine the problem firsthand.



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Above are photos taken during enforcement action by law enforcement as part of the Central Valley High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program.

Next year, Forest Service law enforcement funding is projected to see considerable increases. Both the House and Senate are considering new funding to address the growing challenge of drugs on public lands. This funding is essential, and Rep. Nunes will continue to work with the Forest Service to fight drug production on public lands.

Passport Troubles?

In 2004, Congress passed the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) to strengthen border security and facilitate entry into the United States for citizens and legitimate international visitors.

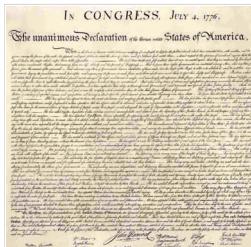
The new rules took effect January 23, 2007. The biggest change for American travelers is that passports are now required to travel to Mexico, Canada, and the Caribbean.



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July 4th: An American Holiday

Every Fourth of July Americans across the nation gather with friends and family to celebrate America's Independence Day. People celebrate in different ways – barbecuing, hitting the beach, watching the local fireworks demonstration, or just enjoying the day off – but the importance of remembering the true meaning of the day is the same.



July 4 marks the occasion of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Before July 4, 1776, the colonials considered themselves British; after that day they were Americans. Although July 4 celebrations were held in Philadelphia on the one-year anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, celebrations became more widespread after the Revolutionary War ended in 1783.

The first celebrations of July 4 were similar to those held across the nation today. Typical early celebrations included cannon fire, parades and musical performances.

This year America celebrates her 231st birthday. It is a time to reflect on what it means to be an American and to remember the sacrifices that American military men and women have made through the years to preserve freedom.

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The new travel requirements have dramatically increased passport applications, overwhelming the U.S. Department of State. As a result, the federal government announced June 8 that U.S. citizens traveling by air to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or countries in the Caribbean region, who have applied for, but not yet received passports, will be able to re-enter the United States by air.

U.S. citizens who take advantage of this accommodation will need to present the official proof of passport application to air carriers and to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at air ports of entry.

It is important to note that this accommodation does not mean that Americans are exempt from meeting the entry requirements of the countries to which they are traveling. Entry requirements for foreign countries remain in effect and should be verified prior to departure.

For more information on how new passport rules may affect your travel, please visit www.travel.state.gov.

Myth vs. Fact: NAFTA Superhighway

Myth: There are plans for a "NAFTA Superhighway" to be built stretching from southern Mexico, through Texas and the Mid-West, and ending in Canada.

Fact: Rumors of a "NAFTA Superhighway" are greatly exaggerated. The North America's SuperCorridor Coalition (NASCO), which many claim is fostering this movement, is a partnership of businesses and local cities that support increasing trade traffic along the corridor. All the roads and other infrastructure were built years ago for efficient trucking. NASCO does not propose building new roads, but

wants to work with all parties to increase communication and to understand trade regulations. This is a classic example of people working together toward business and economic development.



Map of current NAFTA transportation corridor.

QUICK FACTS: PASSPORTS

If you have not yet received your passport and are planning to travel to Mexico, Canada or the Caribbean, you must present proof that you have applied for a passport.

Proof can be obtained by visiting :

www.travel.state.gov

The passport application process takes approximately 10-12 weeks and costs \$97. An expedited passport costs \$157 and takes approximately 2-3 weeks.

California and the Fourth:

Fun Facts

The food used for today's celebrations are possible thanks in large part to California's agriculture industry. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, California farmers help feed millions of American families on July 4. More than 70 percent of the nation's lettuce production in 2006 came from California, which could have been used on hamburgers and for salads. In addition, the ketchup used on hamburgers or hot dogs probably came from California, which accounted for 95 percent of processed tomato production in 2006. Also, last year California was one of the largest producers of watermelon, a fruit popular for July 4.

The feeling about the sanctity of America's Independence Day was perhaps best expressed in a quotation from the Virginia Gazette on July 18th, 1777: "Thus may the 4th of July, that glorious and ever memorable day, be celebrated through America, by the sons of freedom, from age to age till time shall be no more."

Confusion about a "superhighway" may also be the result of a new government pilot program that will test implementation of the trucking provisions of NAFTA. Supported by Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, and approved by Congress in 1993, the pilot program will allow a small number of Mexican trucking companies to be screened for possible trial authority to make deliveries beyond the current 20-mile commercial zones for one year. All foreign companies must pass a safety audit by U.S. inspectors, including a complete review of driver records, insurance policies, drug and alcohol testing programs and vehicle inspection records.

Global Warming: Separating Truth from Propaganda



This editorial was written by Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic, and was originally printed in the Financial Times.

We are living in strange times. One exceptionally warm winter is enough – irrespective of the fact that in the course of the 20th century the global temperature increased only by 0.6 per cent – for the environmentalists and their followers to suggest radical measures to do something about the weather, and to do it right now.

In the past year, Al Gore's so-called "documentary" film was shown in cinemas worldwide, Britain's – more or less Tony Blair's – Stern report was published, the fourth report of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was put together and the Group of Eight summit announced ambitions to do something about the weather. Rational and freedom-loving people have to respond. The dictates of political correctness are strict and only one permitted truth, not for the first time in human history, is imposed on us. Everything else is denounced.

The author Michael Crichton stated it clearly: "the greatest challenge facing mankind is the challenge of distinguishing reality from fantasy, truth from propaganda". I feel the same way, because global warming hysteria has become a prime example of the truth versus propaganda problem. It requires courage to oppose the established" truth, although a lot of people – including top-class scientists – see the issue of climate change entirely differently. They protest against the arrogance of those who advocate the global warming hypothesis and relate it to human activities.

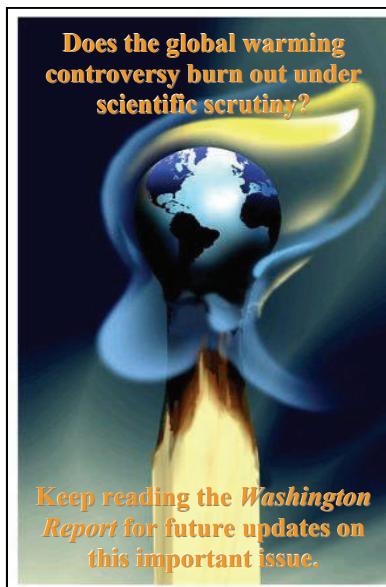
As someone who lived under communism for most of his life, I feel obliged to say that I see the biggest threat to freedom, democracy, the market economy and prosperity now in ambitious environmentalism, not in communism. This ideology wants to replace the free and spontaneous evolution of mankind by a sort of central (now global) planning.

The environmentalists ask for immediate political action because they do not believe in the long-term positive impact of economic

growth and ignore both the technological progress that future generations will undoubtedly enjoy, and the proven fact that the higher the wealth of society, the higher is the quality of the environment. They are Malthusian pessimists.

The scientists should help us and take into consideration the political effects of their scientific opinions. They have an obligation to declare their political and value assumptions and how much they have affected their selection and interpretation of scientific evidence.

Does it make any sense to speak about warming of the Earth when we see it in the context of the evolution of our planet over hundreds of millions of years? Every child is taught at school about temperature variations, about the ice ages, about the much warmer climate in the Middle Ages. All of us have noticed that even during our life-time temperature changes occur (in both directions).



Due to advances in technology, increases in disposable wealth, the rationality of institutions and the ability of countries to organize themselves, the adaptability of human society has been radically increased. It will continue to increase and will solve any potential consequences of mild climate changes.

I agree with Professor Richard Lindzen from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who said: "future generations will wonder in bemused amazement that the early 21st century's developed world went into hysteri-

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-Vaclav Klaus,
President of the Czech Republic

cal panic over a globally averaged temperature increase of a few tenths of a degree, and, on the basis of gross exaggerations of highly uncertain computer projections combined into implausible chains of inference, proceeded to contemplate a roll-back of the industrial age".

The issue of global warming is more about social than natural sciences and more about man and his freedom than about tenths of a degree Celsius changes in average global temperature.

As a witness to today's worldwide debate on climate change, I suggest the following:

- Small climate changes do not demand far-reaching restrictive measures
- Any suppression of freedom and democracy should be avoided
- Instead of organizing people from above, let us allow everyone to live as he wants
- Let us resist the politicization of science and oppose the term "scientific consensus", which is always achieved only by a loud minority, never by a silent majority
- Instead of speaking about "the environment", let us be attentive to it in our personal behavior
- Let us be humble but confident in the spontaneous evolution of human society.
- Let us trust its rationality and not try to slow it down or divert it in any direction
- Let us not scare ourselves with catastrophic forecasts, or use them to defend and promote irrational interventions in human lives.

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