



OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:

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OAKLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONER JIM RUNESTAD ANNOUNCES A “RALLY FOR AMERICAN JOBS”

Monday, June 1, 2009

***- The Federation for American Immigration Reform Supports
Commissioner Jim Runestad’s Effort to Require E-verification of County
Businesses for Employees***

(Great Media Opportunity both sound and visually with 12- to-15 Unions participating in the event and more noted speakers participating as event nears)

(Pontiac, Michigan—May 26, 2009) Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIRus.org) will join many concerned citizens at the largest, one-of-a-kind, bi-partisan rally in support of Oakland County Commissioner Jim Runestad and State Representative David Agema’s efforts to require use of the federal E-verify program to stop the hiring of illegal workers on the county and state level by businesses.

The Rally will be held on Monday, June 1, 2009, beginning between 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m., in the courtyard at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners’ Auditorium on the steps, located at 1200 North Telegraph Road, in Pontiac, MI 48341.

Commissioner Jim Runestad encourages all citizens to show their support of these efforts to enforce the federal immigration law. He states, “We support those businesses that hire legal workers, but it is those businesses that break the law by hiring illegal workers that we have a serious issue with. It is unpatriotic as well as poses a threat to our security in a time of war; it is unfair, unlawful and irresponsible for businesses to continue to take jobs from United States citizens.”

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“The cost is too great,” stated Commissioner Runestad who went on to say, “ The profit for some businesses partaking in breaking the immigration laws continues to negatively impact our economy, the lives of legal citizens by preventing them from obtaining employment as well as a obtaining a livable wage. It impacts safety for citizens because we have no knowledge of criminal activity or affiliations of these illegal workers, you name it. Is it right that our returning soldiers, law-abiding citizens and even those citizens who have paid their debt to society after incarceration should have to compete against those who are working in our country illegally? This is not the “American Way!” Our businesses can do better.”

Speakers for the bi-partisan event will include: Federation for American Immigration Reform, State Representative David Agema; Oakland County Commissioners Jim Runestad (R); Tim Greimel (D); and Steven H. Schwartz (D), along with Local 1 Michigan Bricklayers representative Frank Rodriguez, Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 representative Eric McPherson, IBEW Local 58, Electrical Workers representative Ryan Webb and Susan Tull representative for the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIRus.org) These are only a few of the speakers and various organizations who will be present at this rally. For more information, contact Oakland County Commissioner Jim Runestad at 248-802-5500.

On Thursday, May 7, 2009, Commissioner Runestad’s introduced a resolution before the Oakland County Board of Commissioners that required all contractors, and subcontractors, doing business with the county to use the Federal E-Verify program to demonstrate that they are employing only legal workers. The issue is still being reviewed by the County Board of Commissioners and will come before the Oakland County Board of Commissioners’ General Government Committee on Monday, June 1, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. in Committee Room A and the full board for consideration at the June 11, 2009 Commissioners’ Board meeting at 9:30 a.m., located at 1200 North Telegraph Road, in Pontiac, Michigan.

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According to research and reports on this issue the following data is revealing:

- ❖ The non-profit, non-partisan research organization, Pew Hispanic Center reported that there are approximately 7.2 million undocumented workers working in the United States with 150,000 estimated to be living in Michigan illegally.
- ❖ The Wall Street Journal reported in April 2009 that illegal foreign workers made more than \$11 billion that was sent out of the United States to their homeland.
- ❖ It is noted that the practice of hiring undocumented workers illegally undermines honest competition among businesses and contributes to high unemployment for United States Citizens and legally documented workers which attributes to the climbing unemployment rates in Michigan and Oakland County.

For more information, contact Oakland County Commissioner Jim Runestad at 248-802-5500. Media Inquiries, contact Julia Ruffin, BOC—Liaison at 248-858-1092.

Oakland County Commissioner Jim Runestad is a republican, who represents the communities of White Lake and Waterford townships in District #6. He is serving his first term as an Oakland County Commissioner.