



The Republican.

Time to refocus on immigration

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How's that immigration debate been going of late? You know, the one about a comprehensive immigration reform bill that would deal with reality, with the very real fact that there are some 12 million people inside the United States illegally, and the very real fact that our borders have for years been as porous as a colander.

A couple of years back, there was something approximating an honest debate about the matter, but when things fell to pieces, it quickly began to seem as though the whole thing had never happened.

But now, with a ruling from the Supreme Court allowing construction of a border fence with Mexico without delays from environmental challenges, the matter might once again make its way onto the radar screen. We certainly hope so.

This is, after all, an election year. Perhaps addressing the matter of illegal immigration and what to do about it would make a bit of sense.

We have long argued in this space that there are two sides to this coin, and that it makes no sense to deal with one without addressing the other. That should seem obvious, but much of the debate previously had focused exclusively on either border control or on the illegals who are already here. We'd strongly suggest - again - that it makes good sense to take in the whole picture.

Any sensible immigration policy would seek to gain control of our national borders. Obviously, with some 12 million people here illegally, our borders are not secure. Not in the least.

But tightening up the borders does nothing to address those who are already living among us. Someone who has been living down the street or working at a store you have long frequented may be here illegally. We are not going to make 12 million people go "home,"

especially with many of them having nowhere that is more home than the place where they've been living and working for years.

It's time to put this subject on the front burner again.