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Young Voices: Real tax problem is GE, not immigrants

"Illegal" immigrants are often accused of taking advantage of the system. It's a myth, because everyone, including noncitizens, has to pay the same sales, real estate and gasoline taxes. On top of this, most immigrants in the informal economy still have taxes deducted from their paychecks. To most Erie natives, this informal sector would be baby-sitting, snow shoveling, running a lemonade stand -- basically, any income-generating activity that doesn't require letting Uncle Sam know what your Social Security number is.

It's no surprise that the results of a new study by the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy found that illegal immigrants paid \$11.2 billion this year in taxes already. Another study by the Cato Institute found that they are less likely to use government services than natives are.

On the other hand, General Electric Co., the nation's largest corporation, reported worldwide profits of \$14.2 billion, including \$5.1 billion that came from its operations like the one here in Erie. GE paid zero in taxes, on top of claiming a tax benefit of \$3.2 billion.

Where is the outrage here? Who are the real culprits of our budget crisis here?

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