

JULY 13, 2011, 10:21 AM

Beltway Blog — Polis: Reform immigration, legalize pot for tax revenue

By ALLISON SHERRY |  No Comments



[1]

[Rep. Jared Polis](#) ^[2], D-Boulder

WASHINGTON — Rep. Jared Polis is urging Congress to legalize — and tax — marijuana and fix the broken immigration system as means of funneling more revenue to the federal government, according to an [op-ed in today's Wall Street Journal](#) ^[3].

“Republicans risk taking “no new taxes” to entirely new heights, labeling any attempt to increase federal revenues as a tax increase. And some Democrats have made even minor entitlement adjustments off-limits, which renders the largest portions of the federal budget untouchable,” wrote Polis, a Democrat from Boulder. “But even if Republicans and Democrats don’t abandon their uncompromising rhetoric, there are many ways in which we can work together to close the deficit while honoring the pledges we’ve made to our constituencies.”

Polis cites a Cato Institute study that found that “forcing undocumented immigrants to get right with the law would boost their productivity and thus the incomes of U.S. households \$180 billion a year by 2019, thereby further increasing tax revenues.”

He also says legalizing marijuana would boost tax revenues by \$2.4 billion annually, according to a 2005 study conducted by Harvard economist Jeffrey Miron.

“Much of what we’ve seen out of Congress so far this year has been a political sideshow, as mere percentage points are shaved from spending bills that in total comprise only a small fraction of the federal budget,” Polis wrote. “They should all be on the table, along with spending cuts, if we are to break free of the rhetorical shackles that prevent cutting the deficit.”

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM THE SPOT

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/thespot/2011/07/13/beltway-blog-polis-reform-immigration-legalize->

pot-for-tax-revenue/33706/

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: **<http://blogs.denverpost.com/thespot/2010/01/27/polis-bill-would-extend-legal-protections-to-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-students/4282/pols2/>**

[2] Rep. Jared Polis: **<http://blogs.denverpost.com/thespot/topic/rep-jared-polis/>**

[3] op-ed in today's Wall Street Journal: **<http://polis.house.gov/News/DocumentPrint.aspx?DocumentID=251477>**

Click [here](#) to print.

All contents [Copyright © 2011 The Denver Post](#) or other copyright holders. All rights reserved. | [Privacy Policy](#) | This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed for any commercial purpose.