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Trump's policies a disguised front to legitimize racism

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Editor:

I am more proud than ever to live in Pitkin County thanks to the laudable stands of our county's sheriff Joe DiSalvo and county commissioners in response to intimidation from ICE. This administration's immigration policy is a figurative Potemkin Village behind which lies a great deal of the racism which is endemic in most cultures, but which has been legitimized thanks to the provocative rhetoric coming from this president and his administration. Forty percent of illegals in this country are visitors who overstayed their visas. The source of the largest group is Canada, followed by Mexico, Brazil, Germany and Italy. Yet how much do we hear about this? It is completely eclipsed by the rhetoric about our neighbors from the south, the overwhelming majority of whom are working hard in jobs no Americans want, reaching for the same American dream as the ancestors of all of us (who weren't here first — Native Americans were).

Let's examine what kind of rationale there might be for cracking down on immigrants. Immigrants commit crimes and are incarcerated at a much lower rate than U.S. citizens, according to two separate studies released this week. A study by The Sentencing Project, a criminal justice research and advocacy group, found that "foreign-born residents of the United States commit crime less often than native-born citizens."

Another study, by the libertarian Cato Institute, compares incarceration rates by migratory status, ethnicity and gender: "All immigrants are less likely to be incarcerated than natives relative to their shares of the population," the Cato study reads.

If you live in an agricultural area, ask your local farmers what luck they've had getting Americans to pick their crops. Ask them about willingness, not to even mention ability. It's well-known what a disaster it will be for our farmers to lose the resource of hard-working Latinos who have the skill and willingness to do these jobs.

And to drive the point home from another angle, more American jobs are being lost to robots, not to immigrants.

In summary, I submit that this administration's policies are a thinly-disguised front to legitimize racism, and I applaud the local officials around the country who are taking a stand against it and representing both the immigrant community and the rest of us who support their right to be here.