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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....42517

Notes from editor (not for publication):

Hi, Leo — I'm sorry that I couldn't get this letter in before your ICE protest, and I've adapted it accordingly. All the best, Jeff

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

Who is my neighbor?

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

####END SUBHED####

TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

I recently worked with local comrades on organizing a protest at the Vermont ICE Headquarters in St. Albans. It seems odd for a band of Windham County folks to organize something in the opposite corner of Vermont, but we have felt a strong pull in that direction.

The actions and tactics of ICE under this Trump administration have been so offensive to our sense of decency.

11 Many of us come from a Judeo-Christian tradition, where the
12 concepts of “do unto others as they would do to you” and “love
13 your neighbor as yourself” form the bedrock of morality. The
14 denigration, detention, and deportation of migrants feels like a
15 wound to our community and body politic.

16 Humans are a migratory species. We have evolved to
17 seek safety, reliable sources of food, and security to raise our
18 offspring. All of us, including the First Americans, came from
19 elsewhere and sought to make a decent life.

20 Everyone has the right to be free from hunger,
21 persecution, and violence. Everyone has the right to earn a living
22 and live in peace. Everyone has a right to a place to live and a
23 right to health care. Everyone has the right to seek asylum and
24 have a fair hearing.

25 When we fail to live up to these standards, we dishonor
26 our ancestors and our sisters and brothers.

27 It should be of no surprise to anyone that we desperately
28 need the work of recent migrants in our community and country.
29 In Vermont, our beloved dairy industry relies on migrants, and
30 nationally our vegetable growers and meat processors do the
31 same. Health care, construction, and hospitality industries also
32 need the hard work that migrants provide.

33 During the pandemic, we held up and honored the
34 essential workers who kept the country going while many of us
35 stayed safe at home awaiting a vaccine for Covid.

36 We need to do the same with our migrant neighbors.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

37

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

38

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

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####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

39

####BEGIN LINKS####

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VIDEO:

40

####BEGIN VIDEO####

####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

41

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

####END LOGLINE####