The Declaration of the Free People of Texas

By

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When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all persons are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and property; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among people, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience has shown that people are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to enslave them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of the People of Texas; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government.

The history of the Federal Government of the United States is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over the People of Texas. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world:

It has exempted itself from laws that it imposes on the People of Texas.

It has forbidden our legislature to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, claiming a superior right to legislate in areas such as illegal immigration while itself refusing to legislate in those areas.

It has called its Congress together in secret and at times not usually reserved for the prosecution of public business for the sole purpose of creating laws directly in conflict with the manifest will of the American People and the People of Texas.

It has shifted the legislative authority once reserved for Congress to the Executive Branch through the appointment of unelected Czars without congressional consent or constitutional authority.

It has sought, and is seeking, a civilian defense force for the clear purpose of oppressing the People of Texas.

It has burdened the state treasury with unfunded mandates, and has legislated in areas such as public education, health care and insurance in which it has no constitutional authority to legislate.

It has opened our borders to millions of illegal aliens and millions of tons of illegal drugs while refusing the People of Texas the right to defend its own borders.

It has left the state open to attack by foreign powers by appeasing those powers as it weakens our military forces.

Its judges have legislated from the bench, overthrowing just laws and enacting tyrannical ones.

It has unilaterally abrogated its own Constitution, destroying its former covenants with the People of Texas as with its own People.

It has erected a multitude of new offices, and established swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

It has misused federal military forces to oppress the People of Texas.

It has combined with other nations to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving its assent to their acts of pretended legislation.

It has imposed taxes on us without our consent.

It has used the tort law to deprive us, in many cases, of the benefit of trial by jury, and to legislate through the judiciary.

It has embarked on a course of nationalization of manufacturing, banking and health care, imposing government ownership of the means of production and impairing the fiscal viability of the People of Texas.

It has, through confiscatory taxation, extorted the wealth of Texans who have earned it and bestowed it upon persons outside of Texas who have not. It has consistently sought to punish hard work and success to reward indolence and lawlessness, further enslaving the People of Texas.

It has, without any constitutional authority, manipulated the housing market, causing real property to decline in value and impoverishing the People of Texas.

It has taken possession of vast quantities of land for the purpose of denying the People of Texas the use and enjoyment of the natural resources contained therein.

It has upheld the refusal of a President to disclose documents that bear on his qualifications to hold that office.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A government, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our fellow states. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by the federal legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must therefore acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the People of Texas, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by authority of the good People of this state, solemnly publish and declare, That this united state is, and of right ought to be a free and independent state, that it is absolved from all allegiance to the Government of the United States, and that all political connection between them and the United States of America, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as a free and independent state, it has full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.