

## NIMBY ... Hypocrisy in Spades.

by Vic Berecz

Recently I wrote that radicals of both the left and right are prone to hypocrisy. NIMBY – the “Not In My Back Yard” mentality – is one of the most virulent forms of hypocrisy. Then I look at my neighbors to the left and to the right. I see people who on the surface appear not particularly radical. But, many of them have now fallen prey to NIMBY to the extent that someone has to question their rationality.

For years one of the big controversies in our beach community has been the question of beach renourishment ... moving sand in from offshore to broaden the beach. We’ve argued about dunes and sea oats, about lagoons and turtles, about protection from storms and perpetual easements. These arguments were rational, but the longer they continued, the less likely it was that funding would remain available. Recently, though, the arguments against renourishment seem to have taken a new focus ... we’ve been hearing that broader beaches will only draw more tourists and we’ve got too much traffic as it is! NIMBY!

For years one of the great controversies in our nation has been how to best lessen our dependence on imported oil. There are arguments for drilling to increase domestic supply, for restricting consumption, and for developing alternative energy sources. It’s very hard to say *let’s sit on untapped reserves*. But, many of my neighbors here in the Sunshine State shout: *Drill in Alaska; Drill in California; even, Drill in the Gulf – so long as it’s off the coast of Texas or Louisiana*. But, *Don’t drill off Florida*, it will hurt our tourism industry! NIMBY!

Yup, these are pretty much the same folks talking out of both sides of their mouth. No renourishment, it would promote tourism! No drilling, it would hurt tourism! No to anything! No to everything! Are these people rational? Oh, the power of the NIMBY mentality. It’s hypocrisy *in Spades*.