

of our environmental laws, cleanup of hazardous waste sites, and construction of needed water and waste-water treatment facilities.

The Act meets the needs of our Nation's veterans by providing \$15.6 billion in VA medical care, an increase of \$980 million over the FY 1993 enacted level.

The Act includes \$25.4 billion in funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including funding for programs such as the HOME block grants for housing, Community Development Grants, and Severely Distressed Public Housing. These programs will assist communities and individuals in revitalizing neighborhoods and increasing opportunities for home ownership.

The Act provides \$3 billion in funding for the National Science Foundation, a \$283 million increase over the FY 1993 enacted level. These programs will promote basic research that is vital to enabling our Nation to compete in world markets.

Regrettably, the Act does not fund all of my priority investment proposals, including the Community Investment Program and Community Development Banks. Due to tight budget constraints, the Congress has had the difficult task of balancing the competing priorities of this Act. Although I am disappointed this bill does not fund these programs and includes cuts to programs in space, science, and technology, the bill provides funding for veterans programs, housing initiatives, and environmental programs at acceptable levels. We will continue to work with the Congress to address our mutual concerns in seeking solutions to our Nation's problems.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
October 28, 1993.

NOTE: H.R. 2491, approved October 28, was assigned Public Law No. 103-124.

Statement on Signing the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1994 *October 28, 1993*

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2403, the "Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1994."

This Act provides funding for the Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Postal Service, the General Services Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, the Executive Office of the President, and several smaller agencies. Programs within these agencies address major law enforcement activities in the United States as well as the fiscal operations and general management functions of the Federal Government.

This Act provides funding for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax system modernization initiative and the tax law enforcement initiative. These initiatives are part of my investment program that was transmitted in the FY 1994 Budget. The investment in modernizing IRS will improve service to taxpayers, increase the productivity of IRS operations, and increase tax compliance. The tax law enforcement initiative will provide IRS with resources to address serious tax compliance problems and increase revenue collections.

This Act also contains a provision that would implement, on a pilot basis, the recommendation made by the National Performance Review (NPR) that would allow up to 50 percent of an agency's unobligated funding for salaries and expenses at the end of FY 1994 to be carried forward to FY 1995. The authority is limited to agencies covered by this bill. Of the 50 percent carry-over, up to two percent of the funds may be used to finance cash awards to employees whose actions contributed to producing the savings, and up to three percent may be used for employee training programs.

As requested by the Administration, this Act eliminates a long-standing restriction on the use of Federal Employee Health Benefit program funds for eligible persons seeking abortions.

Several provisions in H.R. 2403 condition the President's authority—and the authority of certain agency officials—to use funds appropriated by this Act on the approval of congressional committees. The Administration will interpret

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such provisions to require notification only, since any other interpretation of such provisos would contradict the Supreme Court ruling in *INS vs. Chadha*.

The Act contains a prohibition on the implementation of the NPR recommendation to transfer the functions of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to the Department of Justice. Because this prohibition is representative of the kind of restriction cited by the NPR as counterproductive to efficient government op-

erations, I will work with the Congress to lift it.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
October 28, 1993.

NOTE: H.R. 2403, approved October 28, was assigned Public Law No. 103-123. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 29.

Statement on Signing the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1994

October 28, 1993

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2445, the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1994."

This Act provides funding for the Department of Energy. In addition it provides funds for the water resources development activities of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation. Various related independent agencies are also funded by this Act.

This Act supports a number of my high-priority investment proposals in the Department of Energy. These include cooperative research and development agreements, solar and renewable energy programs, and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center B-Factor. The bill also supports my investment proposals for improved maintenance at Army Corps of Engineers facilities.

I am disappointed that the Congress has not provided funding in this Act for continuing construction of the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC). This project was an important element of our Nation's science program, and its termination is a serious loss for the field of high energy physics. I am glad, however, that the bill does redirect the SSC funds to be spent for orderly termination so that we can assist

the affected workers and communities in Texas and elsewhere. I look forward to receiving a report from Secretary of Energy, Hazel O'Leary, on future options for the Nation's high energy physics program, now that the planned centerpiece for the field has been terminated.

I am also disappointed that, with the limited resources available, the Congress has added funds for unrequested water projects and studies. In total, this Act provides over \$300 million more than I requested for such projects and studies within the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation.

I am pleased that this Act provides funding for the Dual-Axis Radiographic Hydrotest facility (DARHT). In the absence of underground nuclear weapons tests, the DARHT facility will be vital to maintaining confidence in the stockpile.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
October 28, 1993.

NOTE: H.R. 2445, approved October 28, was assigned Public Law No. 103-126. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 29.