

Apr. 20 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1998

know what to do; we know how to do it; we can do it. And I'm just hoping and praying that we will.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:13 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Statement on the Energy Star Buildings Label Program *April 20, 1998*

I extend my congratulations to the owners and managers of three of America's greatest landmark buildings for pledging to dramatically cut their energy use—an important step to protect our environment. The Empire State Building and the World Trade Center in New York and the Sears Tower in Chicago are long-time symbols of American enterprise and ingenuity. Today they become symbols of leadership and responsibility in ensuring that our Nation tackles the challenge of global warming. These skyscrapers are again hitting new heights by leading the way in curbing the pollution that contributes to global warming.

These American landmarks are charter members of the administration's new Energy Star Buildings Label program—a vital part of our plan to put the Nation on track to curb global warming. Their owners are voluntarily committing to cut their energy use up to 30 percent, thereby reducing the burning of fossil fuels and the related carbon dioxide pollution that causes global warming. These buildings will save energy, save money in electricity bills, and protect

the true bottom line—the environment we leave our children.

I call on all commercial building owners and managers across our Nation to take the same responsible, commonsense, cost-effective step to help meet our most pressing environmental challenge. If all commercial buildings became Energy Star Buildings, we would save \$25 billion a year and achieve over 10 percent of the carbon dioxide reduction needed to meet our Kyoto target.

I am sure the American people join me in thanking the following building owners and managers who have signed up as charter members in our new Energy Star Building Label program: the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; the Helmsley-Spear, Inc.; the Rockefeller Center Management Corp.; TrizecHahn Office Properties, Inc.; LaSalle Partners; the Durst Organization; Amerimar Enterprises, Inc.; MagneTek, Inc.; the Trane Company; Rudin Management Company, Inc.; Tooley and Company; Cushman and Wakefield; Harwood Pacific Corporation; and the General Services Administration.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Proposed Education Legislation *April 20, 1998*

Dear Mr. Leader:

As you consider H.R. 2646 this week, you will have the opportunity to vote for the first time on a version of my proposal to help build and modernize more than 5,000 schools across America. I am writing to ask for your support in this important effort and for your opposition to the expanded Education IRAs in the bill.

Never before have the education infrastructure needs of the Nation been so great. In order

to accommodate record enrollments, move to smaller class sizes, repair aging buildings, take advantage of new technologies, and better educate children with disabilities, States and localities are faced with unprecedented construction and renovation needs. The Federal Government helps build roads, bridges, and other infrastructure projects, but none of that will matter much if we let the education infrastructure come

crumbling down on our children. We must be part of the solution.

I understand that Senator Moseley-Braun will offer an amendment that would replace the IRA provisions with a proposal to allow communities to issue nearly \$22 billion in bonds for modernizing public schools. Because bond purchasers would receive interest payments through a Federal tax credit, communities' costs would be reduced by one-third or more. A vote for the amendment is a vote for safer, state-of-the-art schools that will open doors to the future for our children.

The IRA provisions, which provide tax benefits for elementary and secondary education expenses, are both bad education policy and bad tax policy. Instead of targeting limited Federal resources to build stronger public schools, this proposal would divert needed resources from public schools. In addition, the expanded IRAs

provide little financial assistance to average families, disproportionately benefiting the highest-income taxpayers. For these reasons, and because of other potential amendments that may be adopted, I would veto this bill.

Our children deserve schools they can be proud of. I urge you to help our schools provide a learning environment that will prepare our children for the challenges of tomorrow by supporting the Moseley-Braun amendment, and opposing the expanded Education IRAs.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Trent Lott, majority leader, and Thomas A. Daschle, minority leader, United States Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Lithuania-United States Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty With Documentation *April 20, 1998*

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Washington on January 16, 1998. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activity more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of crimes, including "white-collar" crime and drug-trafficking offenses. The Treaty is self-executing.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes: taking the testimony or statements of persons; providing documents, records, and articles of evidence; locating or identifying persons or items; serving documents; transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; executing requests for searches and seizures; assisting in proceedings related to immobilization and forfeiture of assets, restitution, and collection of fines; and rendering any other form of assistance not prohibited by the laws of the Requested State.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
April 20, 1998.