

President Bush reaffirms that the United States will continue to be a full partner in Afghanistan's reconstruction and, with the support of Congress, continue with a comprehensive program of U.S. assistance to Afghanistan at levels commensurate with the past. To support President Karzai's goal of seeing a transition to broad-based reconstruction efforts, the United States will focus its efforts on particular projects in the areas of transportation, agriculture, education, and health.

- The United States has committed \$80 million to the rebuilding of the Kabul-Kandahar-Herat road—Afghanistan's main transportation artery. Japan and Saudi Arabia are joining us in this project. The United States, in partnership with Norway, will also provide \$12 million to build a bridge over the river between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, forming a key road link.
- Agricultural projects will include a package of irrigation programs, including \$6 million to assist Afghanistan in managing water systems that are already being repaired under cash-for-work programs and a \$15 million project to restore irrigation systems and other essential services.

- In the area of education, the United States is initiating a \$60 million program to build or repair 1000 schools, print 15 million textbooks, train 30,000 teachers, and offer accelerated learning programs to 60,000 students.
- Health is also a priority sector for U.S. assistance, with \$133 million planned for a three-year program that will construct or rehabilitate 550 primary health care centers, expand access to health services in rural areas, and address the basic health care needs of women and children.

The United States and Afghanistan will work together toward that day when Afghanistan is fully secure and self-sufficient. In Afghanistan as elsewhere, the United States covets no resources and seeks no special advantage. President Bush and President Karzai reaffirm the bond of friendship that unites the peoples of America and Afghanistan in the common pursuit of a safer, freer, and more prosperous world for the benefit of all.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

## Statement on Proposed Legislation To Implement the Clear Skies Initiative *February 27, 2003*

In my State of the Union Address, I urged Congress to enact my aggressive and innovative plan to cut air pollution, the Clear Skies Initiative. Clear Skies will cut powerplant emissions by 70 percent—much further, faster, more cost-effectively and with more certainty than current law.

Today, with the reintroduction of my legislation, Clear Skies takes an important step towards delivering health and environmental benefits to Americans. I am pleased that Chairman Tauzin and Chairman

Barton have introduced Clear Skies in the House and Chairman Inhofe and Chairman Voinovich have introduced it in the Senate.

In the last 30 years, America has dramatically improved air quality. Clear Skies is the next step in this positive trend towards bringing cleaner air and better health to more of our citizens. We have learned a lot about what approaches work best, and now is the time to put those lessons to use.

*Feb. 27 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2003*

Clear Skies builds on the proven success of our most effective clean air program—the acid rain reduction program, which significantly reduced acid rain in the Northeast. Clear Skies expands this program so that in the next decade alone, we will remove 35 million more tons of pollution from the air than would the current Clean Air Act. This will also help protect our forests, lakes, streams, and coastal waters from acid rain, nitrogen, and mercury degradation. And Clear Skies will do this through

the use of a market-based system that guarantees results while keeping electricity prices affordable for Americans.

I thank Chairmen Tauzin, Inhofe, Barton, and Voinovich for their leadership on this important environmental initiative. Clear Skies represents cost-effective pollution reductions that make sense for the environment and the economy. Administrator Whitman and I look forward to working with Congress to deliver the benefits promised by passage of Clear Skies legislation.

## Statement Announcing the Hydrogen Powerplant Demonstration Project and the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum

*February 27, 2003*

Today I am pleased to announce that the United States will sponsor a \$1 billion, 10-year demonstration project to create the world's first coal-based, zero-emissions electricity and hydrogen powerplant. This project will be undertaken with international partners and power and advanced technology providers to dramatically reduce air pollution and capture and store emissions of greenhouse gases. We will work together on this important effort to meet the world's growing energy needs, while protecting the health of our people and our environment.

Secretaries Powell and Abraham will also initiate an international Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, to collaborate with

international partners on advancing the research, development, and commercial deployment of carbon capture and storage technologies in the next decade.

Recently, my administration has proposed initiatives to accelerate research and development of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles to allow for commercialization by 2020, and fusion energy by the middle of this century. This demonstration project and the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum will build on these initiatives to provide the American people and the world with advanced technologies to meet the world's energy needs, while improving our global environment for future generations.

## Statement on House of Representatives Action on Legislation To Prohibit Human Cloning

*February 27, 2003*

Today's resounding bipartisan vote in the House demonstrates concern for the profound moral and social issues posed by human cloning. Like most Americans, I be-

lieve human cloning is deeply troubling, and I strongly support efforts by Congress to ban all human cloning. We must advance the promise and cause of medical science,