

Today's action by the Senate also marks the approval of the first free trade agreement that fulfills the May 10 bipartisan trade agreement with Congress by incorporating enforceable labor and environmental standards. I look forward to signing this legislation into law and urge Congress to promptly consider and approve our other

pending free trade agreements, starting with Colombia, which would be important to the stability of the region, and including Panama and South Korea.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this statement.

Remarks on Arrival in Omaha, Nebraska *December 5, 2007*

The President. Good morning. I'm pleased to be back in Nebraska.

Senatorial candidate Michael O. Johanns. Welcome back.

The President. I do want to say a couple of words about Iran before I talk about my friend Mike Johanns.

On the way out here, I spoke with my team, who gave me a report on conversations that the Secretary of State and our National Security Adviser have had over the last couple of days with their counterparts in the United Kingdom, in Germany and France and Russia. These countries understand that the Iranian nuclear issue is a problem and continues to be a problem that must be addressed by the international community. A number of them have said so publicly, and I appreciate their comments.

I appreciate the work of our intelligence community in helping us better understand Iran's past and present nuclear activities. Their information is critical in increasing our understanding and helping us develop a sound policy.

It is clear from the latest NIE that the Iranian Government has more to explain about its nuclear intentions and past actions, especially the covert nuclear weapons program pursued until the fall of 2003, which the Iranian regime has yet to acknowledge. The Iranians have a strategic choice to make. They can come clean with

the international community about the scope of their nuclear activities and fully accept the longstanding offer to suspend their enrichment program and come to the table and negotiate, or they can continue on a path of isolation that is not in the best interest of the Iranian people. The choice is up to the Iranian regime.

I'm here also to talk about my friend Mike Johanns. I have gotten to know him well, and there's no doubt in my mind he'll make a great United States Senator from the State of Nebraska. He's an honorable, decent man, and he's a humble man. When given a task, he can get the job done.

People of Nebraska have gotten to know Mike as a result of his leadership when he was the Governor. I got to know Mike as the result of his being a fine leader at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mike understands farming, and he understands ranching. He understands the issues that the people who work the soil will face. If I were someone living in Nebraska who cared about the agricultural industry, I'd want somebody who knew what he was talking about being my Senator. And Mike Johanns knows what he's talking about when it comes to agricultural matters.

He also understands what he's talking about when it comes to national security matters. He sat in the Cabinet Room with me and other members of my Cabinet, discussing how best to secure the United

States of America from the threats of the world in which we live. It is important for the people of Nebraska to have a Senator who understands the realities of the world and is willing to support the Government in its efforts to protect the American people.

Mike Johanns is a man of values. He understands Nebraskan values. He can articulate Nebraskan values, but more importantly, he lives Nebraskan values.

And so I've come to say to the people of this good State: I know you're going to make up your own mind for what's right,

but if I was a voter in this State, I'd sure pull that lever for Mike Johanns for the United States Senator. [Laughter] And if my wife was a voter for this State—[laughter]—she'd try to pull it twice. [Laughter]

So I'm proud to be here with Mike and Stephanie. Thank you, sir. Good luck, and God bless you. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:01 a.m. at Eppley Airfield. In his remarks, he referred to Stephanie Johanns, wife of Nebraska senatorial candidate Michael O. Johanns.

Remarks Following a Meeting on Health Care and an Exchange With Reporters in Omaha December 5, 2007

The President. It is a joy to be here at the OneWorld Community Health Center in Omaha. I want to thank Andrea and Dr. McVea for the tour.

I say it's a joy because the spirit here, the spirit of community, the desire to help people who are less fortunate is prevalent. People here feel a great sense of community and accomplishment. And as well they should because community health centers, not only here in Omaha but around the country, provide a very vital service. I happen to think they're an integral part of a health care system because they provide care for the low-income, for the newly arrived, and they take the pressure off of our hospital emergency rooms.

And so I've come to thank the staff and the providers of compassionate health care here for their work. I remind the people of Omaha that this is a public-private partnership. The Federal Government is a—and my administration strongly supports the expansion and the extension and the reach of these community health centers. But the private sector, the public, needs to support these centers as well.

We spent a little time talking about whether or not the community understands the importance of a community health center. This community does. I think there is some awareness of how important OneWorld is, and I would hope that other citizens that aren't aware would find out the importance of a community health center.

When I—in 2000, when I was running, I said, look, I believe these are important centers because they provide an integral service, and they take pressure off of our health care systems around the country. And so I laid out a goal of expanding and—the health care centers by 1,200, and we're meeting that goal. And I want to thank Members of Congress from both parties for understanding the importance and the vitality of community health centers. And I look forward to working with Congress to continue to expand the reach of these important facilities.

And so, again, I want to thank you all for your hospitality. I really appreciate you giving me a chance to come to—a part of our national strategy is to make sure