

reductions of this potent greenhouse gas;

- Cooperate in sustainably managing our landscapes for GHG benefits, including protecting and enhancing our forests, wetlands, croplands and other carbon sinks, as well as developing appropriate methodologies to quantify, manage and implement programs for emission reductions in this sector;
- Reduce transportation emissions, including by striving to achieve carbon-neutral growth in the North American aviation sector in the context of global action;
- Pursue a framework to align energy efficiency standards in the three

countries in support of improved national energy efficiency and environmental objectives; and

- Work to reduce GHG emissions in the oil and gas sector, and promote best practices in reducing fugitive emissions and the venting and flaring of natural gas.

In order to facilitate these actions, we will work cooperatively to develop and follow up on a Trilateral Working Plan and submit a report of results at our next North American Leaders Summit in 2010.

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

## Joint Statement by President Barack Obama, President Felipe de Jesus Calderon Hinojosa of Mexico, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada on the Global Influenza Outbreak *August 10, 2009*

Building on the strong record of our trilateral cooperation during the spring of this year, we will remain vigilant and pledge to continue our close collaboration in addressing the H1N1 pandemic. We agree to work together to ensure that we have effective strategies, grounded in the best available science.

Our governments have worked closely together since the very beginning of this outbreak to protect the health of our citizens. During the onset of the H1N1 outbreak, we worked to implement science and evidence-based measures in our countries and on our borders. These measures were geared to provide an appropriate public health response. Movement across our shared borders is essential to the economic health of our countries. We recognize that highly restrictive measures such as general border closures would be unlikely to prevent the spread of this virus and could aggravate the economic and social consequences of an influenza pandemic.

We continue to study the severity and progression of the virus both here and in other parts of the world to help inform future public health decisions, including the use of vaccine,

antiviral, and non-pharmaceutical interventions. Through regular communications; exchange of scientific knowledge, expert personnel, and clinical data; and shared access to laboratory facilities, we have been working to promote the health of the people of our three nations.

In anticipation of a possible fall wave of flu due to the 2009 H1N1 virus, we will look to enhance our exchange of information, ensure common understanding on the effectiveness of public health measures, and share expertise through technical assistance and capacity building. We will continue to do everything we can to ensure that our people have timely and accurate information, and that our citizens are as prepared as they can be. In this regard, we will focus our attention on mitigating the effects of the outbreak in our communities. We encourage all families in North America to learn more about the simple steps they can take to prevent the spread of the flu, including frequent hand washing with soap and water, coughing into your sleeve, and staying home when sick to help prevent illness and the spread of the virus to others.

We know that cooperation and communication between nations, governments, citizens, and domestic and international organizations are the most effective ways to ensure that we are all protected. The strong collaboration between our countries allowed us to have a more secure North America region. We are proud that our countries have collaborated so effectively to this point, and we are firmly committed to continuing to work together in the

months ahead. We will continue to work collaboratively with the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization and support their leadership in facilitating international and regional collaboration in addressing this global issue.

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

## Remarks at a Town Hall Meeting and a Question-and-Answer Session in Portsmouth, New Hampshire August 11, 2009

*The President.* Hello, Portsmouth. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you, everybody. Everybody have a seat. Thank you. Oh, thank you so—

*Audience member.* We love you!

*The President.* I love you back. Thank you. [Laughter] It is great to be back in Portsmouth. It is great to be back in New Hampshire. I have to say, though, that most of my memories of this State are cold. [Laughter] So it's good to be here in August.

There are a couple of people that I want to acknowledge who are here today, some special guests. First of all, I want to thank Principal Jeffrey Collins and the Portsmouth students and faculty and staff; thank you, our host for today. Your own outstanding Governor, John Lynch, is here, and his wonderful wife, Susan—Dr. Susan Lynch, is here—the first lady of New Hampshire. Your United States Senator, doing a great job, Jeanne Shaheen, is here. The Governor of the great State of Maine, and we are glad he's here in New Hampshire today, John Baldacci, is here.

Two of my favorite people, they are just taking Congress by storm, outstanding work—Paul Hodes, Carol Shea-Porter—give them a big round of applause. And we've got your own mayor, Tom Ferrini is here. Where's Tom? Where is he? There he is.

Now, I want to thank more than anybody, Lori, for that introduction and for sharing her story with the rest of us. Thank you, Lori. Lori's story is the same kind of story that I've

read in letters, that I've heard in town hall meetings just like this one for the past 5 years. In fact, some of you were in that town hall—those town hall meetings, as I was traveling all throughout New Hampshire. It's the story of hard-working Americans who are held hostage by health insurance companies that deny them coverage or drop their coverage or charge fees that they can't afford for care that they desperately need. I believe it is wrong. It is bankrupting families and businesses, and that's why we are going to pass health insurance reform in 2009.

Now, this is obviously a tough time for families here in New Hampshire and all across America. Six months ago, we were in the middle of the worst recession of our lifetimes. I want you to remember what things were like in January and February. We were losing about 700,000 jobs per month, and economists of all stripes feared a second-coming of the Great Depression. That was only 6 months ago.

And that's why we acted as fast as we could to pass a Recovery Act that would stop the freefall. And I want to make sure everybody understands what we did. One-third of the money in the Recovery Act went to tax cuts that have already started showing up in the paychecks of about 500,000 working families in New Hampshire—500,000 families in New Hampshire. We also cut taxes for small businesses on the investments that they make, and over 300 New Hampshire small businesses