

to telework on a regular basis. Where regulations are in the way, we'll see what we can do to change them. Where new technology can help, we'll find a secure, cost-effective way to install it. Where training is needed to help managers and workers embrace this approach, we'll adopt the best practices from the private sector.

Because in the end, we believe that all of this isn't just about providing a better work experience for our employees, it's about providing better, more efficient service for the American people, even in the face of snowstorms and other crises that keep folks from getting to the office. [Laughter] I do not want to see the Government close because of snow again. [Laughter]

It's about attracting and retaining top talent in the Federal workforce and empowering them to do their jobs and judging their success by the results that they get, not by how many meetings they attend or how much face time they log or how many hours are spent on airplanes. It's about creating a culture where, as

Martha Johnson puts it, "Work is what you do, not where you are."

And in these efforts, we'll be looking to all of you for advice and ideas. And we plan to continue this conversation in the coming months, holding forums and roundtables in communities across the country, so we can seek out more good ideas and best practices that we can adopt and promote.

So again, I thank you for being part of this forum. I look forward to hearing about what you all came up with today. And I look forward to working with all of you in the years to come.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:34 p.m. in the South Court Auditorium of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Karen Kornbluh, U.S. Permanent Representative to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, in her capacity as founder of the Work and Family Program at the New America Foundation; and his mother-in-law Marian Robinson.

Statement on the Death of Jaime Escalante

March 31, 2010

I was saddened to hear about the passing of Jaime Escalante today. While most of us got to know him through the movie that depicted his work teaching inner-city students calculus, the students whose lives he changed remain the true testament to his life's work.

Throughout his career Jaime opened the doors of success and higher education for his students one by one and proved that where a person came from did not have to determine how far they could go. He instilled knowledge

in his students, but more importantly he helped them find the passion and the will to fulfill their potential. Jaime's story became famous. But he represented countless, valiant teachers throughout our country whose great works are known only to the young people whose lives they change.

Michelle and I offer our condolences to Jaime's family and to all those who knew him and whose lives he touched.

Memorandum on Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf From Leasing Disposition

March 31, 2010

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior

Leasing Disposition

Subject: Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from

Under the authority granted to me in section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf

Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. 1341(a), I hereby withdraw from disposition by leasing through June 30, 2017, the Bristol Bay area of the North Aleutian Basin in Alaska. This withdrawal prevents consideration of Bristol Bay for leasing for any oil or gas development in the Outer Conti-

mental Shelf, whether for exploratory or production purposes.

Nothing in this withdrawal affects the rights under existing leases in this area.

BARACK OBAMA

Remarks in Portland, Maine April 1, 2010

The President. Hello, Portland.

Audience members. Yes we can! Yes we can! Yes we can!

The President. Thank you, Portland. Thank you so much. Thank you, everybody. Well, what a wonderful—I guess when the Sun comes out around here, everybody gets pretty excited.

Audience member. I love you!

The President. I love you back.

Now, I have to say, the last time I was in Maine, it was before the caucuses. It was a little cooler here—[laughter]—as I recall. But it is wonderful to be back. There are some people I want to say a few nice things about.

First of all, we could not have a better Small Business Administrator than your own neighbor, Karen Mills. And so please give her a huge round of applause. She's doing a great job. And I think she has more than a few folks from Maine on her staff. She's kind of stocked them all over the place. And everybody is doing a great job over at the SBA. I want to thank—

Audience member. Thank you!

The President. Thank you. I want to thank one of the finest Governors in the country, John Baldacci, who is here. Thank you, John. Where is he? There he is right there. Thank you.

Your outstanding mayor, Nick Mavodones, is here. And we've got two great champions from Maine whose tireless efforts have helped working families all across this State and all across this country, Congresswoman Chellie Pingree and Congressman Mike Michaud.

All right, it is good to be back in Maine. And I want everybody to remember, when I came here during the campaign, I made a promise. And it wasn't a promise about any particular issue. It was a promise that our Government would once again be responsive to the needs and aspirations of working families, of Ameri-

ca's middle class. It was a promise that Washington would concern itself not just with the next election, but with the next generation of Americans.

Now, keeping that promise is even more critical now, at a time when so many families and so many small-business owners are still struggling here in Maine and all across the country. Every time I visit with workers in a factory or families in a diner, every time I sit down and read letters from Americans across the country, I see and hear the same questions. Folks are asking: "How am I going to find a job when I've only known one skill my entire lifetime and I just got laid off and I'm in my fifties?" "How am I going to retire when I keep spending my savings just to get by, or trying to make sure that my kid can go to college and tuition keeps on going up?" "How am I going to make it when I'm stretched to the limits on my mortgage and on my bills?" Those are the questions that I hear.

And I want you to know we are working every single day to spur job creation and to turn this economy around. That's why we worked so hard over the last year to lift one of the biggest burdens facing middle class families and small-business owners, and that is the crushing cost of health care right here in America.

And, Mainers, I want you to know that last week, after a year of debate and a century of trying, health insurance reform became the law of the land—last week. Last week.

Audience members. Yes we did! Yes we did! Yes we did!

The President. Yes we did. Because of folks like Chellie and Mike, it happened. Because of people like you, it happened. It happened because people had the courage to stand up at town hall meetings and talk about how insurance companies were denying their families