

that has successfully secured the deposits of generations of Americans.

Look, in the end, our system only works, our markets are only free when there are basic safeguards that prevent abuse, that check excesses, that ensure that it is more profitable to play by the rules than to game the system. And that is what the reforms we've been proposing are designed to achieve—no more, no less. And because that is how we will ensure that our economy works for consumers, that it works for investors, and that it works for financial institutions—in other words, that it works for all of us—that's why we're working so hard to get this stuff passed.

This is the central lesson not only of this crisis, but of our history. It's what I said when I spoke here 2 years ago, because ultimately, there is no dividing line between Main Street

and Wall Street. We will rise or we will fall together, as one Nation. And that is why I urge all of you to join me. I urge all of you to join me, to join those who are seeking to pass these commonsense reforms. And for those of you in the financial industry, I urge you to join me not only because it is in the interest of your industry, but also because it's in the interest of your country.

Thank you so much. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Paul A. Volcker, Chairman, President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board; Warren E. Buffett, chief executive officer and chairman, Berkshire Hathaway Inc.; and Sen. Charles E. Grassley. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day *April 22, 2010*

Hello, everybody! How are you? Now, this is a good-looking crowd. [*Laughter*] Thank you so much, everybody, for coming.

Today we celebrate 40 years of Earth Day. Now, obviously, Earth has been around longer than that. [*Laughter*] But we have been celebrating Earth Day for 40 years, which was a bright moment in our Nation's history and a milestone in the ongoing fight to protect our environment.

Many of you know the history. In 1970, a Senator from Wisconsin named Gaylord Nelson hired a young graduate student named Denis Hayes, who is with us today. Where's Denis? There he is. He still looks like a young graduate student. [*Laughter*] And so Denis helped to coordinate the first Earth Day. And together, they raised their voices and called on every American to take action on behalf of our environment.

And in the four decades since, millions of Americans have heeded that call and joined together to protect the planet. And we've made immense progress since that day, from the landmark legislation of the 1970s, the Clean Air and the Clean Water Act, to the conservation of America's precious landscapes.

I know that many of you have played an important role at one stage or another in these victories, and their impact can be felt today and will be felt tomorrow. And as a parent, I'm grateful for the good fight that so many of you have fought, because it means that I'm going to be able to pass on to Malia and Sasha and maybe some grandchildren down the line this incredible bounty not only of the United States of America, but the world as a whole.

And along the way, Earth Day has become much more than a date on the calendar. It's come to represent the simple truth that with each challenge comes the opportunity to make the world a better place.

So since taking office, we have seized that opportunity. With your help, we've made a historic investment in clean energy that will not only create the jobs of tomorrow, but will also lay the foundation for long-term economic growth. We've continued to invest in innovators and entrepreneurs who want to unleash the next wave of clean energy. We've strengthened our investment in our most precious resources: the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the parks and public spaces that we enjoy.

And together, we've also renewed our commitment to passing a comprehensive energy and climate bill that will safeguard our planet and spur innovation and help us to compete in the 21st century.

So looking out into the Rose Garden today, we see a lot of people who will help us achieve these goals: the business owners who know that protecting our environment is good for business, the Members of Congress who are helping to carry us along in the House and the Senate, the members of my "green" Cabinet who are helping to shape the policies that we're fighting for, and the environmental leaders who are on the ground fighting each and every day because they understand what's at stake.

So together, you represent what I believe is most inspiring about Earth Day, and that is the belief that each of us individually, from different backgrounds and different walks of

life, have the capacity to make an enormous difference.

I think we all understand that the task ahead is daunting, that the work ahead will not be easy and it's not going to happen overnight. It's going to take your leadership. It's going to take all of your ideas. And it will take all of us coming together in the spirit of Earth Day, not only on Earth Day, but every day, to make the dream of a clean energy economy and a clean world a reality. I'm confident, though, that we can do it. And I want to thank all of you for your support, your counsel, your occasional grumbling—[laughter]—and your dedication, because without you, we couldn't accomplish everything that needs to be accomplished.

So thank you very much, everybody. Enjoy the Rose Garden. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:20 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Denis Hayes, president and chief executive officer, Bullitt Foundation.

Statement on the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day *April 22, 2010*

In 1970, a Senator from Wisconsin named Gaylord Nelson raised his voice and called on every American to take action on behalf of the environment. In the four decades since, millions of Americans have heeded that call and joined together to protect the planet we share.

Since that first Earth Day 40 years ago, we have made immense progress, from the landmark legislation of the 1970s, the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, to the conservation of America's precious landscapes.

And since taking office, my administration has worked to build on this progress. We have made a historic investment in clean energy that will not only create the jobs of tomorrow but will also lay the foundation for long-term economic growth. And we have also renewed our commitment to passing comprehensive

energy and climate legislation that will safeguard our planet, spur innovation, and allow us to compete and win in the 21st-century economy.

Earth Day has always been about people from different backgrounds and different walks of life coming together on behalf of a cause bigger than ourselves. And with that spirit of community, we must continue the hard work to make the dream of a clean energy economy a reality and pass this world on to our children cleaner and safer than we found it.

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