

to this spill as well as changes to current law to better prepare the Nation for any future spills.

The people of the Gulf region—the hard-working individuals, families, and business owners—have already begun to incur significant economic losses due to this disaster. They face the prospect of greater losses as the full impact becomes clear, in large part because of the unique relationship between their traditional livelihoods and the fragile environment. The Gulf coast is one of the richest and most beautiful ecosystems on the planet, and for centuries, its residents have enjoyed and made

a living from the fish that swim in these waters and the wildlife that inhabit these shores. We will do everything in our power to support those who are affected by the spill, protect our natural resources, demand reimbursement from the responsible parties for costs incurred, rebuild what has been damaged, and help this region persevere as it has done so many times before.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Stabilization of Iraq

May 12, 2010

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, continuing the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq. This notice states that the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, Executive Order 13350 of July 29, 2004, Executive Order 13364 of November 29, 2004, and Executive Order 13438 of July 17, 2007, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2010.

Obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United

States. Accordingly, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to this threat and maintain in force the measures taken to deal with that national emergency.

The Iraqi government continues to take steps to resolve debts and settle claims arising from the actions of the previous regime. Before the end of the year, my Administration will review the Iraqi government's progress on resolving these outstanding debts and claims, as well as other relevant circumstances, in order to determine whether the prohibitions contained in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, as amended by Executive Order 13364 of November 29, 2004, on any attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process with respect to the Development Fund for Iraq, the accounts, assets, and property held by the Central Bank of Iraq, and Iraqi petroleum-related products, should continue in effect beyond December 31, 2010, which are in addition to the sovereign immunity ordinarily provided to Iraq as a sovereign nation under otherwise applicable law.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
May 12, 2010.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks at Industrial Support Inc. and a Question-and-Answer Session in Buffalo, New York May 13, 2010

The President. Thank you, everybody. Hello, hello, hello. Hey! It's good to be in Buffalo. Everybody, please have a seat, have a seat. Get comfortable.

I'm sorry for the delay. I—this was a secret; I only told Dave, but then I thought I probably should tell all of you that I had to go out and try those wings before I came out. [Laughter] So if you see some of the sauce—[laughter]—that's why. And I can vouch for Duff's crispy medium; that's what I had. Very nice. Outstanding.

Couple of acknowledgments I want to make. First of all, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown is here. Where is he? Byron, stand up. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter is here. Your own Congressman from this district, Brian Higgins, is here. Congressman Chris Lee is here. And I brought one of my outstanding members of my Cabinet, who is working hard every day with businesses like this to help grow the economy, Karen Mills, my Small Business Administrator, is here. Please give her a big round of applause.

So this is my first visit to western New York as President. And so it is just a thrill to be here. I'm glad that it's not snowing. Thank you. [Laughter] Last Sunday, right? You guys still got snow? Sheesh. [Laughter] I thought Chicago was bad. This is worse.

But I'm really thrilled to be here, partly because it gives me a chance to get out of Washington. And I've been trying to make a habit of that. About once a week or so, I try to take a trip outside of Washington. Now, don't get me wrong, Washington is a beautiful city. I've got a really nice office. [Laughter] And I live above the store, so the commute is really short. [Laughter]

But you've heard of being in the bubble. When you're in Washington, sometimes it's just hard to hear anything else except the clamor of politics. And that clamor can drown out the voices of the American people. So I'm not going

to give a long speech today. I actually want to take some time to take a few questions from you, hear about your concerns, your hopes, what opportunities you see out there.

But before I do, I do want to say a few words about the thing that I know is in the front and center of everybody's mind, and that's the state of our economy.

Now, I don't need to tell all of you that we're still emerging from one of the worst recessions in our history. And it's been tough everywhere, but cities like Buffalo have been especially hard hit. Now, even before the most recent downturn began—years before—you were seeing jobs disappear and factories shut their doors. Costs, family expenses went up, but wages, they flatlined, they didn't go up. And that's tough on families, and that's devastating on communities.

So breaking our economic freefall was job number one when I took office. I want everybody to remember, because sometimes we've got a selective memory here, when I took office, we were losing 750,000 jobs a month. Our economy had shrunk, the quarter I came in, 6 percent. Experts of all political stripes were warning of another great depression. That wasn't that long ago, but it's easy to forget just how fragile things are and how scared people were. And so we had to take immediate steps to stop the crisis. And some of those steps weren't particularly popular.

I had just inherited a \$1.3 trillion deficit from the previous administration, so the last thing I wanted to do was to spend money on a recovery package or help the American auto industry keep its doors open or prevent the collapse of Wall Street banks whose irresponsibility had helped cause this crisis. But what I knew was if I didn't act boldly and I didn't act quickly, if we didn't defy the politics of the moment and do what was necessary, we could have risked an even greater disaster.