

thing to do for our workers and for our companies. I believe that investing in a clean energy economy to create good jobs of the future, building pipe for natural gas, but also building windmills and steel—and turbines and advanced batteries for the new generation of electric cars, that's the right thing to do for our economy and for our environment. I believe that raising standards in our schools and making college more affordable and upgrading our community colleges is the right thing to do so that every child has a chance to live out their dreams. I believe that reforming our health care system to crack down on the worst practices of the insurance companies and giving everybody a decent shot at getting health insurance is the right thing to do. And trying to control costs on premiums is the right thing to do. It's the right

thing to do for families, and it's the right thing to do for businesses.

So we're going to keep up every effort to rebuild our economy and restore some security for the middle class, a middle class forged in plants just like this one, so that places like Youngstown don't just survive year after year, but they are thriving year after year. And as long as I have the privilege of being your President, I'm going to keep fighting for a future that is brighter for this community and for Ohio and for the United States of America, the country that we love.

God bless you. God bless all the work here. God bless the United States of America. Appreciate you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m.

## **Statement on Senate Action on Oil Pollution Liability Legislation** *May 18, 2010*

I am disappointed that an effort to ensure that oil companies pay fully for disasters they cause has stalled in the United States Senate on a partisan basis. This maneuver threatens to leave taxpayers, rather than the oil companies,

on the hook for future disasters like the BP oil spill. I urge the Senate Republicans to stop playing special interest politics and join in a bipartisan effort to protect taxpayers and demand accountability from the oil companies.

## **Statement on Haitian Flag Day** *May 18, 2010*

On behalf of the American people, I send my congratulations to all those who celebrate Haitian Flag Day here in America, in Haiti, and around the world. Over 200 years ago, freedmen from what is now the Republic of Haiti came to the aid of American patriots fighting for freedom at the Siege of Savannah. Then, in 1803, Haiti declared their independence, and this day celebrates the flying of that first Haitian flag. The bonds between our nations have been strong and vibrant since that day.

But as we observe this day of celebration, let us also remember the ongoing efforts in Haiti to rebuild and recover from that tragic earthquake. We stand with the international community in our support for the Government of Haiti and the Haitian people as they continue to create a foundation for a brighter future. On this Haitian Flag Day, the people of Haiti should remember that they have a friend and partner in America.

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for President Felipe de Jesus Calderon Hinojosa of Mexico  
May 19, 2010

*The President.* Good morning.

*Audience members.* Good morning.

*The President.* Buenos dias.

*Audience members.* Buenos dias.

*The President.* On behalf of Michelle, myself, and the American people, it is my great honor to welcome our neighbor, friend, and partner, President Calderon, along with First Lady Margarita Zavala and members of the Mexican delegation. Welcome to the United States. *Bienvenidos.*

President Calderon was the first foreign leader that I met after my election. And this visit is an opportunity to return the extraordinary warmth and hospitality that the President, the First Lady, and the people of Mexico have shown me during my visits to Mexico, as well as to Michelle during her first solo international trip as First Lady.

Mr. President, it is fitting that your visit comes during this year of celebration, the bicentennial of Mexican independence and the centennial of the Mexican revolution. And you and the Mexican people draw strength from your proud past to forge your future. We recall the words of the great Octavio Paz, who said, "Between tradition and modernity, there is a bridge." With this visit, we can also strengthen the many bridges that bind our two nations.

The United States and Mexico are not simply neighbors bound by geography and history; we are, by choice, friends and partners. We are bound by our business partners, workers, and tourists who fuel our prosperity, by our students and educators who broaden our horizons, and by our men and women in uniform who serve and sacrifice to keep us safe.

In the United States, we're also proud of another bond: the ties of family. Mexican Ameri-

can families have been here for centuries, as well as those who continue to—our proud tradition as a nation of immigrants, all of whom strengthen our American family and who join us today.

Mr. President, working together, we have built upon these bridges. We forged a new era of cooperation and partnership between our countries based on mutual interest, mutual respect, and mutual responsibility. And with your visit, we can advance our partnership even further.

Together, we can help create jobs and prosperity for our people. We can ensure that our common border is secure, modern, and efficient, including immigration that is orderly and safe. We can stand firm and deepen our cooperation against the drug cartels that threaten our people. And given Mexico's global leadership, we can stand together for the opportunity and security of all people, in our hemisphere and beyond.

Finally, Mr. President, your visit speaks to a truth of our time, in North America and the world. In the 21st century, we are defined not by our borders, but by our bonds. So I say to you and to the Mexican people, let us stand together. Let us face the future together. Let us work together. *Trabajemos juntos.*

President Calderon, Senora Zavala, welcome to the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:44 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, where President Calderon was accorded a formal welcome with full military honors. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.