

ourselves to ensuring that devastating events like these are never repeated. This is a contemporary cause that thousands of Armenian Americans have made their own.

The legacy of the Armenian people is one of resiliency, determination, and triumph over those who sought to destroy them. The United States has deeply benefited from the significant contributions to our Nation by Armenian Americans, many of whom are descended from the survivors of the *Medz Yeghern*. Americans

of Armenian descent have strengthened our society and our communities with their rich culture and traditions. The spirit of the Armenian people in the face of this tragic history serves as an inspiration for all those who seek a more peaceful and just world.

Our hearts and prayers are with Armenians everywhere as we recall the horrors of the *Medz Yeghern*, honor the memories of those who suffered, and pledge our friendship and deep respect for the people of Armenia.

## Remarks at the White House Easter Egg Roll

April 25, 2011

*The President.* Hello, everybody. I hope all of you had a wonderful Easter. I hope everybody is having a great time here. Welcome to the White House.

In addition to our outstanding Easter Bunny—

*Audience member.* [Inaudible]

*The President.* Hi!

I want to introduce somebody who is doing extraordinary work not only helping military

families, not only making sure that everybody is getting up and going, but is also keeping me in line, the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Regarding Oil Subsidies

April 26, 2011

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to urge you to take immediate action to eliminate unwarranted tax breaks for the oil and gas industry, and to use those dollars to invest in clean energy to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

High oil and gasoline prices are weighing on the minds and pocketbooks of every American family. While our economy has begun to recover, with 1.8 million private sector jobs created over the last 13 months, too many Americans are still struggling to find a job or simply just to pay the bills. The recent steep increase in gas prices, driven by increased global demand and compounded by unrest and supply disruptions in the Middle East, has only added to those struggles. If sustained, these high prices have the potential to slow down the pace of our

economy's growth at precisely the moment when we need to be accelerating it.

While there is no silver bullet to address rising gas prices in the short term, there are steps we can take to ensure the American people don't fall victim to skyrocketing gas prices over the long term. One of those steps is to eliminate unwarranted tax breaks to the oil and gas industry and invest that revenue into clean energy to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Our outdated tax laws currently provide the oil and gas industry more than \$4 billion per year in these subsidies, even though oil prices are high and the industry is projected to report outsized profits this quarter. In fact, in the past CEO's of the major oil companies made it clear that high oil prices provide more than enough profit motive to invest in domestic exploration and production without special tax

breaks. As we work together to reduce our deficits, we simply can't afford these wasteful subsidies, and that is why I proposed to eliminate them in my FY11 and FY12 budgets.

I was heartened that Speaker Boehner yesterday expressed openness to eliminating these tax subsidies for the oil and gas industry. Our political system has for too long avoided and ignored this important step, and I hope we can come together in a bipartisan manner to get it done.

In addition, we need to get to work immediately on the longer term goal of reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and our vulnerability to price fluctuations this dependence creates. Without a comprehensive energy strategy for the future we will stay stuck in the same old pattern of heated political rhetoric when prices rise and apathy and neglect when they fall again.

I recently laid out my approach to a comprehensive strategy in my Blueprint for a Secure Energy Future, which includes safe and responsible production of our domestic oil and gas resources and doubling down on fuel efficiency in the transportation sector while in-

vesting in everything from wind and solar to biofuels and natural gas. None of you will agree with every aspect of this strategy. But I am confident that, in many areas, we can work together to help show the American people that we can make progress on an energy policy that creates jobs and makes our country more secure.

And I hope we can all agree that, instead of continuing to subsidize yesterday's energy sources, we need to invest in tomorrow's. We need to invest in a 21st century clean energy economy that will keep America competitive. In the long term, that's the answer. That's the key to helping families avoid pain at the pump and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid; Senate Minority Leader A. Mitchell McConnell; Speaker of the House of Representatives John A. Boehner; and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

## Remarks to the White House Press Pool April 27, 2011

*The President.* Hello, everybody. Now, let me just comment, first of all, on the fact that I can't get the networks to break in on all kinds of other discussions—[laughter]. I was just back there listening to Chuck [Chuck Todd, NBC News]. He was saying, "It's amazing that he's not going to be talking about national security." I would not have the networks breaking in if I was talking about that, Chuck, and you know it.

*Q.* Wrong channel. [Laughter]

*The President.* Right. [Laughter]

The—as many of you have been briefed, we provided additional information today about the site of my birth. Now, this issue has been going on for 2, 2½ years now. I think it started during the campaign. And I have to say that over the last 2½ years, I have watched with bemusement, I've been puzzled at the degree to

which this thing just kept on going. We've had every official in Hawaii, Democrat and Republican, every news outlet that has investigated this, confirm that, yes, in fact, I was born in Hawaii, August 4, 1961, in Kapiolani Hospital.

We've posted the certification that is given by the State of Hawaii on the Internet for everybody to see. People have provided affidavits that they, in fact, have seen this birth certificate. And yet this thing just keeps on going.

Now, normally, I would not comment on something like this, because obviously, there's a lot of stuff swirling in the press at any given day, and I've got other things to do. But 2 weeks ago, when the Republican House had put forward a budget that will have huge consequences potentially to the country, and when I gave a speech about my budget and how I felt that we needed to invest in education and