

May 16 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2013

problem and we've highlighted it and people who are engaging in despicable behavior, they get fully punished for it.

So again, I want to emphasize: Everybody in this room has heard from me directly. They've heard from Secretary Hagel, and they've heard from Marty Dempsey. They all understand this

is a priority and we will not stop until we've seen this scourge, from what is the greatest military in the world, eliminated. All right?

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:53 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

## Statement on Senate Confirmation of Ernest J. Moniz as Secretary of Energy May 16, 2013

I am pleased that today, by a unanimous vote, the Senate confirmed Ernest Moniz as our next Energy Secretary. Dr. Moniz is a world-class scientist with expertise in a range of energy sources and a leader with a proven record of bringing prominent thinkers and innovators together to advance new energy solutions. He also shares my conviction that the United States must lead the world in developing more sustainable sources of energy

that create new jobs and new industries and in responding to the threat of global climate change. I am thrilled that Ernie is joining my team, and I look forward to his counsel on these issues as my administration continues to increase our Nation's energy security, strengthen our nuclear security, develop the next generation of clean energy technologies, and compete for the jobs of the 21st century.

## Remarks at Ellicott Dredges, LLC, in Baltimore, Maryland May 17, 2013

*The President.* Hello, Baltimore! Well, it is wonderful to see all of you. Give Duncan a big round of applause for the great introduction. I want to thank all of you for the warm welcome, the great hospitality. And I tell you what, I'm going to return the favor by hosting your Super Bowl Champion Baltimore Ravens at the White House this summer. So we'll have Ray Lewis in the China Room. What could go wrong? [*Laughter*]

I want to thank your CEO, Peter Bowe, and your plant manager, Robert Croom, and your entire team for showing me around this great facility. I was told that one of your customers once named a dredge after President Clinton, so I've got my fingers crossed. [*Laughter*] Never had a dredge named after me, so I'm looking after—looking forward to that.

I've come here today to talk about our single most important priority as a country right now. And that is reigniting the true engine of our economic growth, and that is a rising, thriving middle class. And as I said in my State of the

Union Address this year, that's our north star. That's what we have to focus on. That's what has to guide all our efforts.

And we've got some great people who are championing middle class families every single day. First of all, your outstanding Governor—come on—Martin O'Malley. Your outstanding mayor, Madam Mayor. You've got some outstanding Members of Congress, led by your senior Senator, Barbara Mikulski. And your own leader in the House of Representatives, he is doing a great job every single day, and he loves this State: Steny Hoyer.

The—so we've got just some extraordinary folks here. Every—let me make sure I've—Elijah Cummings is here. But more importantly, Elijah's mom is here. And we are so proud of Elijah, but his mom apparently prays for me every day, so I'm very grateful for her as well.

And the—all of these, all of your Members of Congress, every single day, are working, fighting on behalf—on your behalf in terms of making sure that we're growing an economy