

the goal. Our progress here will be measured differently: in crises averted, in a planet preserved. But can we imagine a more worthy goal? For while we may not live to see the full realization of our ambition, we will have the satisfaction of knowing that the world we leave to our children will be better off for what we did.

“It makes you realize,” that astronaut said all those years ago, “just what you have back there on Earth.” And that image in the photograph, that bright blue ball rising over the Moon’s surface containing everything we hold dear—the laughter of children, a quiet sunset, all the hopes and dreams of posterity—that’s what’s at

stake. That’s what we’re fighting for. And if we remember that, I’m absolutely sure we’ll succeed.

Now, thank you. God bless you. God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. outside the Old North building. In his remarks, he referred to former President George H.W. Bush; Gov. Samuel D. Brownback of Kansas; Gov. Mary Fallin of Oklahoma; Gov. Terry E. Branstad of Iowa; former Govs. William F. Weld, A. Paul Cellucci, Jane M. Swift, and W. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts; and former Gov. M. Jodi Rell of Connecticut.

Statement on the Accession of Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani as Amir of Qatar *June 25, 2013*

I extend my best wishes to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani as he assumes his new role as the Amir of Qatar. Qatar is an important partner of the United States, and we look forward to further strengthening our cooperation in the years ahead. I also extend my

appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani for his friendship and leadership. The United States looks forward to working with Sheikh Tamim to deepen the ties between our two countries and to continue our close partnership on issues of mutual interest.

Statement on the United States Supreme Court Ruling on the Voting Rights Act *June 25, 2013*

I am deeply disappointed with the Supreme Court’s decision today. For nearly 50 years, the Voting Rights Act—enacted and repeatedly renewed by wide bipartisan majorities in Congress—has helped secure the right to vote for millions of Americans. Today’s decision invalidating one of its core provisions upsets decades of well-established practices that help make sure voting is fair, especially in places where voting discrimination has been historically prevalent.

As a nation, we’ve made a great deal of progress towards guaranteeing every American the right to vote. But as the Supreme Court recognized, voting discrimination still exists. And while today’s decision is a setback, it doesn’t represent the end of our efforts to end voting discrimination. I am calling on Congress to pass legislation to ensure every American has equal access to the polls. My administration will continue to do everything in its power to ensure a fair and equal voting process.