

Jan. 29 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2013

And they will continue to find a partner in the United States of America.

NOTE: In his remarks, the President referred to President Bashar al-Asad of Syria. The Of-

fice of the Press Secretary also released an Arabic language transcript of this address. Recording information was unavailable.

Statement on the Resignation of Raymond H. LaHood as Secretary of Transportation *January 29, 2013*

I want to thank Secretary LaHood for his dedication, his hard work, and his years of service to the American people, including the outstanding work he's done over the last 4 years as Secretary of Transportation. I also want to thank Ray for his friendship. Years ago, we were drawn together by a shared belief that those of us in public service owe an allegiance not to party or faction, but to the people we were elected to represent. And Ray has never wavered in that belief.

As Secretary of Transportation, he has fought to create jobs and grow our economy by re-

building our roads, bridges, and transit systems. Under his leadership, we have made significant investments in our passenger rail system and laid the groundwork for the high-speed rail network of the future. And every American who travels by air, rail, or highway can thank Ray for his commitment to making our entire transportation system safer and stronger. I am grateful to Ray for everything he's done, and I wish him only the best going forward.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of John F. Kerry as Secretary of State *January 29, 2013*

I am pleased that the Senate has confirmed John Kerry as our next Secretary of State with overwhelming bipartisan support. From his decorated service in Vietnam to his decades in the Senate as a champion of American global leadership, John's distinguished career has prepared him to guide American diplomacy in the years ahead.

John has earned the respect of leaders around the world and the confidence of Democrats and Republicans in the Senate, and I am confident he will make an extraordinary Secretary of State. I look forward to his counsel and partnership in the years ahead as we ensure American leadership in the world and advance the interests and values that keep our Nation strong.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Regarding the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 *January 29, 2013*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with section 902 of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013, I hereby designate as emergency requirements all funding so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Bal-

anced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget.