

versary, let us also recommit ourselves to the values that inspired the law and redouble our efforts on behalf of fairer workplaces and healthier, more secure families.

## Statement on the Resignation of Subra Suresh as Director of the National Science Foundation February 5, 2013

We have been very fortunate to have Subra Suresh guiding the National Science Foundation for the last 2 years. Subra has shown himself to be a consummate scientist and engineer, beholden to evidence and committed to upholding the highest scientific standards.

He has also done his part to make sure the American people benefit from advances in technology and opened up more opportunities for women, minorities, and other under-represented groups. I am grateful for his service.

## Remarks on the Nomination of Sarah M.R. “Sally” Jewell To Be Secretary of the Interior February 6, 2013

*The President.* Hello, everybody. Please have a seat. Everybody’s so formal—[laughter]—or maybe it’s just after lunch. Well, good afternoon, everybody.

Ken Salazar likes to say that the Department of the Interior is actually the Department of America. Other members of my Cabinet may not entirely agree with that statement, but you can see where he’s coming from. The Secretary of the Interior is in charge of overseeing 500 million acres of public land—including places like Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon—and protecting our natural heritage for our children and our grandchildren and their children to come.

But the job also requires keeping an eye on America’s future and making smart decisions about how we create jobs and help businesses grow and put ourselves on a path towards energy independence. And that’s not always an easy balancing act, but with enthusiasm and skill and dedication, that’s exactly what Ken Salazar has done over the last 4 years.

We were just reminiscing a little bit. I’ve known Ken since we were both running for the Senate together and became the only two incoming Democrats in our Senate class. Pete Rouse remembers this. It was a lonely time. [Laughter] We actually lived in the same building when we first arrived in Washington. And,

Ken, you’ll recall it was a little discouraging because basically everyone else who lived there was 20 or 25. [Laughter] So we were the two geriatrics in this building.

But I came to appreciate quickly not just his friendship—which, if you’ve got Ken Salazar as a friend, you’ve got a real friend. Not only did I come to appreciate his jump shot—he is surprisingly quick on the court—[laughter]—but also his patriotism and his belief that we’ve got a responsibility to care for the land with which we’ve been blessed.

And it’s not surprising that Ken feels this way; after all, his ancestors were living here before the *Mayflower* set sail. As he explains it—and relevant, as we are working to get immigration reform passed—his family did not cross the border, the border crossed them. [Laughter] And that’s why, when I needed somebody to lead Interior, I didn’t have to look very far.

Since being confirmed, Ken has cracked down on waste. He’s improved the management of the Department to make it work better for the American people. He has ushered in a new era of conservation for our land, our water, and our wildlife. He’s established 7 new national parks, 10 new national wildlife refuges. He has opened more public land and water for safe and responsible energy production, not just gas and oil, but also wind and solar,