

above all, protect the American people. And these regulations can work when people allow it to work.

Let me just give you one example: One of the things we did was pass a credit card bill of rights that imposed a new standard of fairness, transparency, and accountability on credit card companies. And that means a simpler bill with no more hidden fees, no more shifting deadlines or sudden changes of terms or “any time, any reason” rate hikes. That wasn’t designed to punish credit card companies. They provide a valuable service; they deserve to turn a profit. A recent study by independent economists show that these new protections are saving consumers more than \$20 billion a year.

Now, the men and women who work for agencies like the CFTC, charged with financial reform in consumer protection, this is the work that they do: save consumers money and prevent systemic risk from happening again. They’ve exposed deceptive mortgage schemes, abusive debt collection practices that prey on Americans who were hit hard by the recession. They’ve partnered with States to secure a \$50 billion settlement for 600,000 homeowners who were targeted by some of these mortgage schemes. The new consumer watchdog agency we set up is working to empower students and veterans and families with the straightforward information they need to make sound financial choices like buying a home or paying for college. And so far, it has secured more than \$700 million in refunds to more than nearly 8 million hard-working American consumers who were abused by unfair or abusive practices.

So that’s what financial reform is all about. That’s what a well-functioning CFTC is all about: protecting hard-working Americans by

making sure everyone plays by the same set of rules, preserving trust in the integrity of our markets and our financial system, preventing a crisis like the one we endured from ever happening again. And we’ve come too far and the American people have sacrificed too much to go back to the old days. Our economy is growing, our businesses are creating jobs, and those of us who have been sent here to serve should be doing everything we can to strengthen the middle class, strengthen the financial markets, and rebuild an economy where everybody who works hard has a chance to get ahead.

That has been what Gary has been up to the entire time that he’s served at the CFTC. We couldn’t be prouder of the work that he has done. I’m confident that as soon as Congress confirms Tim and allows him to carry on that important work, he is going to be carrying those same values with him, with the outstanding team that we have at this agency.

So to both of you, thanks for being great public servants.

Chairman Gensler. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Gary, good luck to you. And Tim, congratulations.

Chairman-designate Massad. Thank you.

The President. Let’s get you confirmed. All right?

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:28 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Warren E. Buffett, chief executive officer and chairman, Berkshire Hathaway Inc.; former President George W. Bush; and Senate Minority Leader A. Mitchell McConnell.

Statement on the Passage of Marriage Equality Legislation in Hawaii November 12, 2013

I want to congratulate the Hawaii State Legislature on passing legislation in support of marriage equality. With today’s vote, Hawaii joins a growing number of States that recognize that our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters should be treated fairly and equally under

the law. Whenever freedom and equality are affirmed, our country becomes stronger. By giving loving gay and lesbian couples the right to marry if they choose, Hawaii exemplifies the values we hold dear as a nation. I’ve always been proud to have been born in Hawaii, and

today's vote makes me even prouder. And Michelle and I extend our best wishes to all those

in Hawaii whose families will now be given the security and respect they deserve.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran November 12, 2013

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within the 90-day period prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2013.

Because our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the agreements with Iran, dated January 19, 1981, is still under way, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12170 with respect to Iran.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
November 12, 2013.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks at the Tribal Nations Conference November 13, 2013

Thank you, everybody. Everybody, please, have a seat. Thank you, Karen, for the kind introduction.

A couple of people I want to introduce, or at least acknowledge. First of all, give it up for our outstanding new Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell. We're joined by several other members of my Cabinet, which reflects how much my administration values your partnership, the partnership with your communities. I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here.

I want to give, also, a special shout-out to one of my closest advisers, one of my oldest friends. But he's also a great friend to all of you, and he doesn't get a lot of credit, because he hates credit. He just likes to work behind the scenes. But he worked with many of you when he worked in the Senate. He has been a key adviser on Native American affairs for me throughout this process, and I could not be

prouder of him: Mr. Pete Rouse. So give Mr. Pete Rouse a big round of applause.

Now, most of all, I want to thank all of you, especially the tribal leaders who are here today. And I understand, actually, we've got more tribal leaders here than we ever have at any of these conferences. So it just keeps on growing each year, which is wonderful news. You represent more than 300 tribal nations, each of you with your own extraordinary heritage, each a vital part of a shared American family. And as a proud adopted member of the Crow Nation, let me say *kaheé*—welcome—to all of you.

Now, after I became President, I said that, given the painful chapters and broken promises in our shared history, I'd make sure this country kept its promises to you. I promised that tribal nations would have a stronger voice in Washington, that as long as I was in the White House, it would be your house too. And