

pollution. If we keep going down this road, then we're going to have a future full of good-paying jobs.

We've got assembly lines that are humming with the components of a clean energy age. We've got more of the best trucks and cars in the world designed and engineered and made in America.

If we keep on going, we're going to leave a better future for our children. And I'm proud

of Safeway and all its workers for helping to show us the way. If it can be done here, it can be done all across the country.

So congratulations to all of you. Thank you, and God bless you. God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Jack L. Jacobs, director of distribution for the Eastern division, Safeway Inc.

Statement on Representative Rush D. Holt, Jr.'s Decision Not To Seek Reelection

February 18, 2014

Over his 15 years in Congress, Rush Holt combined a relentless focus on building a brighter future with an unwavering commitment to improving the everyday lives of the New Jerseyans he represents, especially the veterans he works tirelessly to support. Just the second research physicist elected to Congress, no one has worked harder to keep America on the cutting edge of innovation than Rush. Time and time again, he has led ef-

forts to fund science education and basic research. His legacy will live on in our labs, our universities, and our classrooms, where countless math and science teachers have been able to afford college thanks in part to the TEACH grants he helped create. Michelle and I thank Congressman Holt for his leadership and service, and we wish him, his wife Margaret, and their children and grandchildren the very best in the future.

Statement on Representative Gloria Negrete McLeod's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

February 18, 2014

Gloria Negrete McLeod has been a strong advocate for hard-working families and farmers in California's 35th District and across the country. She has been a key partner in promoting access to affordable health care and bringing quality employment and higher education opportunities to all Americans. Gloria has con-

sistently supported working women and their families and has championed programs to help our Nation's veterans find jobs and enroll in college. Michelle and I thank Congresswoman Negrete McLeod for her service and send her, her husband Gilbert, and their family our warmest regards.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico in Toluca, Mexico

February 19, 2014

[President Peña Nieto spoke first in Spanish, and no translation was provided.]

President Obama. Well, let me thank President Peña Nieto for his wonderful hospitality

in hosting us here today. And it's a special treat to be able to visit his hometown of Toluca.

This is my fifth visit to Mexico, and I think it underscores the incredible importance of the relationship between the United States and

Mexico, not only on commercial issues and security issues, but because of the intimate person-to-person relations that exist between our two countries.

I want to congratulate President Peña Nieto on the outstanding efforts that he's made during the course of this year on a whole range of reforms that promise to make Mexico more competitive and increase opportunity for the people of Mexico. And I'm also very interested in hearing President Peña Nieto's strategies as he embarks on dealing with some of the reforms in the criminal justice system and around security issues, which I know are very pressing on his mind and where we have some excellent cooperation between the United States and Mexico.

More broadly, the North American Leaders' Summit gives us an opportunity to build on the enormous progress that we've already made in making sure that North America is the most competitive region in the world and that we are able not only to continue to integrate our economies effectively to create jobs both in the United States, Mexico, and Canada, but that we're able to project American and Mexican and Canadian goods and services around the world for the benefit of our people.

And the cooperation ranges from how do we make our borders more efficient to moving forward on the Trans-Pacific Partnership that offers the opportunity to open up new markets in the fastest, most populous region of the world, the Asia-Pacific region.

We'll also have the opportunity to discuss how we can work together more closely on scientific and educational exchanges. We're particularly interested in making sure that young people in Mexico and the United States and Canada are able to study and travel in each country, and we're trying to expand those kinds of exchanges.

So this is a wonderful opportunity for us to build on the work that we've already done over the last year.

Political Unrest and Violence in Ukraine

With the President's indulgence, let me say one last thing, and that is about the situation in

Ukraine, which obviously has captured the attention of the entire world.

The United States condemns in strongest terms the violence that's taking place there. And we have been deeply engaged with our European partners as well as both the Ukrainian Government and the opposition to try to assure that that violence ends.

But we hold the Ukrainian Government primarily responsible for making sure that it is dealing with peaceful protesters in an appropriate way, that the Ukrainian people are able to assemble and speak freely about their interests without fear of repression.

And I want to be very clear that as we work through these next several days in Ukraine that we are going to be watching very carefully, and we expect the Ukrainian Government to show restraint, to not resort to violence in dealing with peaceful protesters. We've said that we also expect peaceful protesters to remain peaceful. And we'll be monitoring very carefully the situation, recognizing that, along with our European partners and the international community, there will be consequences if people step over the line. And that includes making sure that the Ukrainian military does not step into what should be a set of issues that could be resolved by civilians.

So the United States will continue to engage with all sides in the dispute in Ukraine, and ultimately, our interest is to make sure that the Ukrainian people can express their own desires. And we believe that a large majority of Ukrainians are interested in a—integration with Europe and the commerce and cultural exchanges that are possible for them to expand opportunity and prosperity.

But regardless of how the Ukrainian people determine their own future, it is important that it is the people themselves that make those decisions. And that's what the United States will continue to strive to achieve.

And I do think there is still the possibility of a peaceful transition within Ukraine, but it's going to require the Government, in particular, to actively seek that peaceful transition, and it requires the opposition and those on the streets to recognize that violence is not going

to be the path by which this issue will be resolved.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. in the Governor's Office at the Palacio de Gobierno of the State of Mexico.

Remarks With President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico and Prime Minister Stephen J. Harper of Canada to North American Business, Civil Society, and Education Leaders in Toluca

February 19, 2014

President Peña Nieto. Your Excellency Barack Obama, President of the United States of America; Your Excellency Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada; ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests: We are here gathered with representatives from the public, the private, and the social sectors. All of you have walked along us in the construction road to a more competitive North America. And by this, we will have a higher level of development for our peoples.

Members of the media, Mexico welcomes you with open arms to celebrate the North America Leaders' Summit, Toluca 2014. Besides being Toluca, my hometown, this is the place where I was entrusted by the citizens to serve as the Governor of this State, the State of Mexico. The State of Mexico is a clear symbol of the productive integration of North America due to its geographic location and its connectivity. Here we have seen the settlement of advanced automobile facilities and very important logistic hubs. Both are a true example of value chains, global value chains, that make North America excel.

That is why, from Toluca, the three leaders of North America confirm today our commitment to position our region as one of the most dynamic and competitive of the whole world.

I celebrate the fact that we have gathered here with prominent representatives from the academia, from the private sector, and from the civil society from North America. Your contribution has been vital to bring Canada, the U.S., and Mexico closer. With a clear vision in mind, all of you pushed from the onset the great idea that gathers us today: an integrated North America with goals and shared efforts.

[*At this point, there was an interruption in the audio feed.*]

Once, the Free Trade Agreement area was the largest free trade area, with an unprecedented push of trade exchanges, regional investment, and the creation of millions of jobs. With the same innovative spirit, two decades after, we are bound to go beyond and enhance all together the progress that each one of our countries has made, because individually, all our countries have moved forward as well.

Therefore, the principal topics of this seventh summit are very clear: first, inclusive and shared prosperity; number two, new opportunity areas; number three, citizen security; and fourth, regional and global topics. It is upon these four topics today we will work together to boost the economic growth of our countries and a generation of quality jobs and, by this, increase the well-being of our societies.

Ladies and gentlemen, Canada, the United States, and Mexico share strengths that make us move forward. We are a community of more than 450 million inhabitants, where talent and creativity of our peoples excel. Trade exchanges from the three countries are over \$1 trillion—in Spanish, we use billions; in English, we use trillions. We have the support and thrive of our entrepreneurs and the capabilities of technological innovation coming from our universities and large companies.

We have principles, we have institutions that make us be solid democracies. We have natural resources, endless natural resources and new opportunities, so we can take advantage of them sustainably.

All of these are factors that lay a solid groundwork for North America's region, and