

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:03 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to LeBron James, Shane Battier, and Udonis Haslem, forwards, Chris Bosh and

Chris “Birdman” Andersen, center-forwards, and Dwyane Wade and Mario Chalmers, guards, Miami Heat; Patrick J. Riley, president, the HEAT Group; and musician Al Green.

Statement on Representative William L. Owens’s Decision Not To Seek Reelection

January 14, 2014

During his time in the United States Congress, Bill Owens has been a forceful advocate for the people of New York. Bill has helped create jobs and economic opportunity for hard-working North Country families and farmers. And as a proud veteran of the U.S. Air Force,

he has protected the interests of our men and women in uniform. Michelle and I thank Congressman Owens for his service, and we wish him, his wife Jane, and their three children the very best in the future.

Remarks at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina

January 15, 2014

The President. Hello, Raleigh! Thank you so much. Thank you. Well, it is good to be back in North Carolina. If you have a seat, go ahead and have a seat. Now, if you don’t have a seat, don’t. [Laughter]

It is good to be here at the home of the Wolfpack. I want to thank your chancellor, Randy Woodson, for the introduction and the great work that he’s doing on behalf of students all across the system. I want to recognize my Secretary of Energy, Ernie Moniz, who is here. Give him a big round of applause; he’s doing good work. Your Governor, Pat McCrory, is here. The mayor of Raleigh, Nancy McFarlane. The mayor of Chapel Hill, Mark Kleinschmidt. The mayor of Durham, Bill Bell. And we’ve got Congressman Mike McIntyre doing great work. Your Senator, Kay Hagan, couldn’t be here, but I wanted to thank her publicly for the great work she’s doing.

And I want to thank all the students for coming out. We’re doing this event nice and early so it doesn’t run up against the Wake game. I’ve learned a few things as President, and one of them is not to compete with college basketball down here on Tobacco Road. You don’t do that.

Now, this is actually my second stop in Raleigh-Durham. I just took a tour of a company called

Vacon, where workers design the drives that power everything from elevators to the giant fans that help cool buildings like this one, although I think we’re kind of saving money on this one—[laughter]—which is the smart thing to do.

So this company is making these engines and these systems more efficient, saving businesses big bucks on energy costs, improving the environment. Those savings get passed on to customers, puts money in people’s pockets. And growing companies that need the products that Vacon makes, they’re benefiting enormously. So it’s a good-news story. But in a global economy, that company, just like every company in America, has to keep inventing and innovating in order to stay on the cutting edge. And that’s where all of you come in.

Here at NC State, you know something about innovation. You’ve got one of the largest undergraduate engineering programs in the country. That’s worth cheering for. I’m a lawyer by training, and that’s nice. But we need more engineers.

So companies like Cisco and IBM, they come to this school when they’re looking to hire because of the quality of the engineering program. And over at Centennial Campus, some very smart people experiment in state-of-