

Congress is sitting on dozens of bills that would help protect our precious land and wildlife. And by one count, there's a set of 10 land conservation bills that have been introduced a combined 52 times over the past 30 years, and they are still stuck. So I'm here to pick up a little bit of the slack. [Laughter] Because there is no time to waste to preserve our precious resources and give a shot in the arm to local economies like Las Cruces.

So I want to thank everybody again, not just here on stage, but all of those at the Department of the Interior who worked so hard on this project. And I want to thank all the public servants around the country for everything that you do to guide Americans through God-given wonders and keep our national landscapes

pristine, not just today, for—but for many years to come.

Thanks, everybody. And now I'm going to sign this proclamation. All right? Good.

Gather up, everybody. [Laughter]. Got to get all the pens in.

[At this point, the President signed the proclamation.]

There we go. Done.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:25 p.m. at the Department of the Interior. The proclamation is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Deployment of United States Armed Forces Personnel to Chad

May 21, 2014

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

Approximately 80 U.S. Armed Forces personnel have deployed to Chad as part of the U.S. efforts to locate and support the safe return of over 200 schoolgirls who are reported to have been kidnapped in Nigeria. These personnel will support the operation of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance aircraft for missions over northern Nigeria and the surrounding area. The force will remain in Chad until its support in resolving the kidnapping situation is no longer required.

This action has been directed in furtherance of U.S. national security and foreign policy interests, pursuant to my constitutional authority

to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148). I appreciate the support of the Congress in these actions.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to John A. Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate.

## Remarks at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York

May 22, 2014

*The President.* Thank you. There must be some White Sox fans here somewhere. [Laughter] It is great to be here in Cooperstown. And I have to say that in addition to just wonderful people, those of you all across

America and around the world who have not been here, this is a gorgeous place. We came in by helicopter and had a chance to see the landscape, and it looks like a spectacular place to spend a few days, a week, however long you