

NCCIC and DHS for the great job you are doing. You are helping to keep the Nation safe and secure.

And with that, we're going to get out of here so you can get back to work. Who knows what's

been happening while you've been paying attention to me? [*Laughter*] All right? Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:10 p.m.

Statement on the Resignation of Acting Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality Michael J. Boots *January 13, 2015*

I want to thank Mike Boots for his service to the American people over the past 6 years, including his tenure as one of my top environmental advisers. It is no coincidence that Mike's leadership of the Council on Environmental Quality has coincided with historic national progress on climate change and conservation. His deep policy expertise and his work with mayors, Governors, and other local leaders have guided my actions to strengthen our Nation's infrastructure and address the

threats communities face from climate change. His leadership has helped me fulfill the pledge I made a year ago to protect the pristine and special places Americans care about, including by permanently preserving more than 260 million acres of environmentally and culturally significant lands and waters as national monuments. The country is better off because of Mike's contribution, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Remarks at Cedar Falls Utilities in Cedar Falls, Iowa *January 14, 2015*

The President. Hello, Cedar Falls!

Audience members. Hello!

Audience member. Welcome!

The President. Thank you. It's good to be back.

Well, first of all, give Marc a big round of applause for the introduction and the great work he's doing. I also want to thank Mayor Jon Crews as well as Jim Krieg and the whole team here at Cedar Falls Utilities for hosting us here today. Give them a big round of applause.

We've got our Commerce Secretary, Penny Pritzker, here, as well as Iowa Congressman Dave Loebsack and Attorney General Tom Miller. [*Applause*] Yay, Tom! And I was reminded by the president that we have to give a shout-out to a top-25 basketball team that you've got here in town. The president was lobbying me about putting them in my brackets. I said, it's a little early. [*Laughter*] I've got to kind of see what happens the second half of the season.

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. [*Laughter*] The Panthers are putting together a heck of a season again. And I think most folks learned a few years ago that when March rolls around, you do not bet against UNI.

Now, it's great to be back. I've seen a lot of good friends. Unfortunately, they're not giving me time to grab a beer down at the Pump Haus this trip, although I understand the mayor said he'd brought a Bud Light with me—or for me. The mayor brought a Bud Light, and he's trying to sneak it around Secret Service. [*Laughter*] But obviously, it's wonderful coming back to Iowa, even during winter, in fact, especially in the cold. These folks in Washington can't handle the cold. We know how to handle cold in the Midwest.

And here in Iowa, on a cold January caucus night about 7 years ago, we talked about change and said that it was time for us to move this country in a new direction. And obviously,