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with our friends and allies. Since 2001, my Administration has concluded or implemented free trade agreements with 15 countries. We are working toward agreements with 11 additional countries, and we will continue to pursue further opportunities.

Last August, I was pleased to sign legislation implementing the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA–DR). CAFTA–DR will reduce tariffs on American goods and expand export opportunities for American businesses. When the rules are fair, American people and businesses can compete with anyone in the world. CAFTA–DR will also advance our commitment to democracy and prosperity for our neighbors.

Studies have shown that the elimination of global trade barriers could help lift hundreds of millions of the world's poor out of poverty and boost economic growth around the world. An important opportunity to deliver the full benefits of trade to people around the world is the Doha Round of trade negotiations at the World Trade Organization. An ambitious Doha agreement could bring benefits to all nations, especially the developing world, and my Administration is working for a successful conclusion to these negotiations.

During World Trade Week and throughout the year, the United States remains committed to increasing free and fair trade and to improving the standard of living for our citizens. By working with our friends and allies, we will continue to help build a world that lives in liberty, trades in freedom, and grows in prosperity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 21 through May 27, 2006, as World Trade Week. I encourage all Americans to observe this week with appropriate events, trade shows, and educational programs that celebrate the benefits of trade to our Nation and people around the world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 8023 of May 23, 2006

Great Outdoors Month, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Great Outdoors Month is an opportunity to celebrate and experience America's natural splendor and renew our commitment to conserve our air, water, and land. During this month, we also honor the dedicated men and women who volunteer to help protect our natural resources.

Americans live amid many wonders of nature. Our Nation's varied landscapes include sandy beaches, expansive forests, emerald waters,

and towering mountains. Through biking, swimming, skiing, hiking, and many other activities, Americans are enjoying our country's magnificent scenery and the healthy benefits of outdoor recreation.

To ensure that our natural heritage remains a source of pride for all our citizens, my Administration is committed to conserving America's public lands and natural resources and pursuing environmentally responsible initiatives. We are working to accelerate research into cleaner sources of energy, protect our water sources, and encourage the use of hybrid cars. We have put in place a series of clean air regulations that will help us to meet air quality standards. Through efforts like these, we will continue our Nation's economic growth and protect the environment.

Our citizens play an important role in protecting our natural spaces. Throughout our country, Americans are volunteering in their communities for environmental education programs, local parks, nature conservancies, and other stewardship opportunities. These devoted individuals are working to maintain park trails, restore wildlife habitats, plant trees, and clear overgrowth. I appreciate these volunteers for their efforts to keep America beautiful, and I encourage all Americans to demonstrate good stewardship and an appreciation for the outdoors. Individuals interested in volunteering can visit the Department of the Interior's Take Pride in America website at takepride.gov.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2006 as Great Outdoors Month. I call on all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities and to spend time enjoying the outdoors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 8024 of May 24, 2006

National Homeownership Month, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Owning a home is an important part of the American dream. During National Homeownership Month, we raise awareness of homeownership and encourage more Americans to consider the benefits of owning their own home.

Nearly 70 percent of Americans enjoy the satisfaction of owning their own home, and my Administration continues to promote an ownership society where the promise of America reaches all our citizens. The American Dream Downpayment Act of 2003 is helping thousands of low to moderate income and minority families with downpayment and closing costs, which represent the greatest barrier to homeownership.