

Memorandum on Enhancing Education Through Technology January 30, 1998

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive
Departments and Agencies*

Subject: Enhancing Learning and Education
Through Technology

The Federal Government continually invests in training its employees. Federal agencies have an obligation to provide the best training for their employees at the lowest possible cost. Federal agency training programs should be model users of new technologies to enhance learning. Many agencies are already improving training by using new technology effectively, but more can be done. New instructional technologies can also make education, at work and at home, easier and more convenient for all American workers. Federal programs that provide financial support for lifelong learning should adapt to the new opportunities technology provides. A Federal Government-wide effort is needed to explore how Federal programs and initiatives can better support the use of technologies for lifelong learning. Therefore, I hereby direct as follows:

1. The National Economic Council (NEC), in consultation with the Chief Information Officers Council (CIOC) as established by Executive Order 13011 of July 16, 1996, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), shall investigate how to make full use of emerging technologies to improve the cost-effectiveness and the quality of Federal training programs. Specifically, I direct that within 6 months from the date of this memorandum the NEC, in consultation with CIOC, OPM, and OSTP, provide me a plan identifying areas in which technology-

enhanced training and learning may complement conventional Federal training and learning. The plan should describe how the agencies, when feasible and appropriate, will:

- (a) make full use of best commercial practices when purchasing instructional software;
- (b) work with businesses, universities, and other appropriate entities to foster a competitive market for electronic instruction;
- (c) develop a model technical approach to facilitate electronic instruction building on existing agency efforts, such as the Advanced Distributed Learning Initiative Partnership; and
- (d) develop and support a program of research that will accelerate the development and adoption of new instructional technologies.

2. The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Labor shall work together to promote adoption of the best new ways of using technology to enhance training and education in programs that provide Federal support for education and training.

3. The NEC, in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, the OSTP, and other appropriate Federal Government entities, shall develop a national strategy to promote high-quality education and training opportunities that can be offered in a manner that is efficient, affordable, and convenient. Industry, universities, labor unions, and other stakeholders should be consulted in the development of the strategy. The strategy shall be completed within 6 months of the date of this memorandum.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The President's Radio Address January 31, 1998

Good morning. Today I'd like to talk to you about one of the ways we are strengthening our Nation for the 21st century: our bold new efforts to deal with the challenge of global climate change through the force of the market and the power of American innovation.

The world's leading climate scientists have concluded, unequivocally, that if we don't reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere all across the Earth, then the temperature of the Earth will heat up, seas will rise, and increasingly severe floods and droughts

will occur, disrupting life in low coastal areas, disrupting agricultural production, and causing other difficulties for the generations of the 21st century. Fortunately, we can avert these dangers and do it while keeping our economy going strong.

This past December, America led the world to reach a historic agreement committing nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through market forces, new technology, and energy efficiency. We can do some things right here, right now, to show that America is doing its part. In my State of the Union Address, I called for an unprecedented commitment of \$6 billion for research and tax incentives to mobilize cutting-edge technology in the fight against global warming. I'd like to explain just what that means to you.

First, we want to help bring down the price of high-efficiency cars for every American. Earlier this month, Ford, GM, and Chrysler unveiled prototypes of advanced-technology cars that get more than twice the mileage of today's models with no sacrifice in comfort, safety, or performance. When cars like these begin to enter the showrooms in the year 2000, we'll give everyone who buys one a \$3,000 tax credit to apply to every size car. When these cars become even more efficient, we'll increase the tax credit to \$4,000. We're committed to making it not only wiser but actually cheaper to buy highly efficient cars.

Second, we'll help you turn your home into a model of energy efficiency. We'll offer tax credits that will give you a discount of 20 per-

cent off the cost of energy-saving water heaters and air conditioners. And we'll also offer a tax credit—worth up to \$2,000—to help you put solar panels on your roof or to help you buy an energy-efficient home in the first place.

Third, we will accelerate research on clean, renewable energy and energy-saving technologies. We'll help to develop energy-efficient lighting, refrigerators, and other appliances that will mean lower monthly bills for you and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. And we will work with industry to cut their energy use so that they can also protect the environment while enhancing the bottom line.

Whenever we act to heal our environment, some always question whether it will hurt our economy. But today, our economy is the strongest in a generation and our environment, the cleanest in a generation. Whether the problem has been acid rain, deadly pesticides, polluted rivers, or the ozone hole, the ingenuity of the American people has always proved to carry the day—and we'll do it once again. Working together, we will overcome the challenge of global climate change and create new avenues of growth for our economy. And most important, we'll honor our deepest responsibility to pass on this home, without harm, to our children, our grandchildren, and generations yet to come.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 4:40 p.m. on January 30 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 31.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the United States Air Force Operating Location Near Groom Lake, Nevada *January 31, 1998*

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

Consistent with section 6001(a) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (the "Act"), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6961(a), notification is hereby given that on September 26, 1997, I issued Presidential Determination No. 97-35 (copy attached) and thereby exercised the authority to grant certain exemptions under section 6001(a) of the Act.

Presidential Determination No. 97-35 exempted the United States Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake, Nevada, from any Federal, State, interstate, or local hazardous or solid waste laws that might require the disclosure of classified information concerning that operating location to unauthorized persons. Information concerning activities at the operating location near Groom Lake has been properly determined to be classified, and its disclosure