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Letter to House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bud Shuster on Legislation To Establish a Uniform Blood Alcohol Content Standard To Combat Drunk Driving

March 31, 1998

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On March 28, 1998, I sent a letter to the Leadership addressing my concerns regarding H.R. 2400, the Building Efficient Surface Transportation and Equity Act of 1998. As the House prepares to consider this bill, it is my hope that the Lowey-Canady .08 provision be adopted.

As the crime rate continues to drop nationwide, we still lose an American to drunk driving every thirty minutes—every half hour a family is shattered and a child, parent or neighbor is lost forever. Setting a uniform limit for impaired driving at .08 blood alcohol content will help us crack down on the drunk driving epidemic and put a stop to these needless deaths. In addition, a uniform standard will still allow adults to drink responsibly.

This should not be a partisan issue, but rather an opportunity for the House to act in a bipartisan fashion to save lives and serve America. I look forward to continuing to work together to make the .08 standard a reality.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Message to the Congress Reporting on Appropriations for B–2 Bombers

March 31, 1998

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1998, Public Law 105–56 (1997), and section 131 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998, Public Law 105–85 (1997), I certify to the Congress that no additional B–2 bombers should be procured during this fiscal year.

After considering the recommendations of the Panel to Review Long-Range Air Power and the advice of the Secretary of Defense, I have decided that the $331 million authorized and appropriated for B–2 bombers in Fiscal Year 1998 will be applied as follows: $174 million will be applied toward completing the planned Fiscal Year 1998 baseline modification and repair program and $157 million will be applied toward further upgrades to improve the deployability, survivability, and maintainability of the current B–2 fleet. Using the funds in this manner will ensure successful completion of the baseline modification and repair program and further enhance the operational combat readiness of the B–2 fleet.

The Panel to Review Long-Range Air Power also provided several far-reaching recommendations for fully exploiting the potential of the current B–1, B–2, and B–52 bomber force, and for upgrading and sustaining the bomber force for the longer term. These longer term recommendations warrant careful review as the Department of Defense prepares its Fiscal Year 2000–2006 Future Years Defense Program.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
March 31, 1998.