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Statement on the Resignation of Federico Peña as Secretary of Energy
April 6, 1998

Earlier today, with regret, I accepted Secretary of Energy Federico Pena's resignation.

Secretary Pena has admirably served my administration, first as Secretary of Transportation and then as Secretary of Energy. It is a measure of my confidence in his abilities that I entrusted him to run not one but two Cabinet agencies.

In his last year he diligently managed the Energy Department, focusing on energy, environmental quality, national security, and science and technology issues. Just last week Secretary Pena unveiled our Comprehensive Electricity Competition Plan, saving consumers $20 billion per year by introducing competition into the electricity industry. Under his leadership, the Department of Energy provided much of the analysis that gave me the confidence that we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions without harming the economy.

In the last year he helped shape our policy in the Caspian region, building a coalition among the key nations in that region; he provided a comprehensive national energy strategy for the Nation that will help ensure that Americans have affordable, clean, and secure energy supplies in the 21st century; and he privatized Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve, generating $3.65 billion for U.S. taxpayers.

During his 4 years at the Transportation Department, Secretary Pena increased the level of competitiveness of America's transportation industry with more investments in mass transit than at any time since Woodrow Wilson was President. Secretary Pena helped to improve travel safety, signed aviation agreements with 40 nations, opened lucrative markets for American airlines, and oversaw a 25 percent increase in infrastructure investments.

I wish Secretary Pena, his wife, Ellen, and their three children the best for the future. I thank him for his invaluable service as a member of my Cabinet.

Statement on British and French Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
April 6, 1998

Today, France and Great Britain deposited their instruments of ratification for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York, thus becoming the first nuclear weapon states to ratify the CTBT.

I applaud this milestone in the global effort to reduce the nuclear threat and build a safer world. In particular, I want to thank Prime Minister Blair and President Chirac and the Parliaments of Great Britain and France for their leadership in paving the way towards early entry into force of this historic treaty.

The CTBT has now been signed by 149 states, including all 5 nuclear weapon states. In my State of the Union Address, I asked the Senate to give its advice and consent to the CTBT this year. The CTBT is in the best interests of the United States because its provisions will significantly further our nuclear nonproliferation and arms control objectives and strengthen international security.

Statement on a Breast Cancer Prevention Study
April 6, 1998

Today's new research findings about the potential use of the drug tamoxifen to prevent breast cancer are an historic step in the ongoing fight against this deadly disease. Breast cancer