Statement on BP Amoco’s Efforts To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

January 25, 1999

I commend BP Amoco and its chief executive, John Browne, for once again demonstrating the kind of corporate leadership needed to meet two of our most pressing environmental challenges—air pollution and global warming. Last fall British Petroleum set a new standard in corporate responsibility by voluntarily pledging to reduce dramatically its emissions of greenhouse gases. Today BP Amoco extended this pledge to cover Amoco’s production facilities as well. These commitments demonstrate that leading corporations can serve their investors and their customers, even as they join us in the fight against global warming.

Also today, BP Amoco announced plans to market cleaner fuels in 40 cities around the world to help improve local air quality. By using the latest technology to custom tailor fuels to address the unique pollution concerns of these cities, the company will help produce cleaner, healthier air for millions of people worldwide. And it is helping to build the kind of partnership between the fuel and automotive industries that will be needed to deliver clean, efficient transportation for the 21st century.

With today’s announcements, BP Amoco offers further proof that a strong economy and a healthy environment go hand in hand. Working together, we can ensure that future generations breathe cleaner air, and we can protect them from the grave risks of global warming.

Remarks at the Fifth Millennium Evening at the White House

January 25, 1999

The President. Thank you very much. I would like to take about the last four sentences of Professor Marty’s talk and embazon it in the consciousness of every human being on the face of the Earth.

This is a wonderful night. I’d like to begin by thanking the First Lady for leading our Millennium Project and by bringing these two remarkable people here. I’m terribly impressed with both of them. They took about 40 minutes, by my count, and did the last 1,000 years and the entire future. [Laughter] Took me an hour and 17 minutes the other night to talk about one year. [Laughter]

I also want to express my gratitude to both of you for not making fun of those of us who insist on ignoring the Gregorian calendar and proclaiming the millennium next New Year’s Eve at midnight. [Laughter]

I thought Professor Davis did a great service to all of us who are less well-read in what happened 1,000 years ago by debunking some of the popular myths. Clearly, not everyone was giving away all their possessions or covering in churches waiting for the world to end. Maybe what was said tonight will discourage some of our fellow citizens who seem determined to buy desert land and hoard gold, bullets, and Skoal in their pickup trucks. [Laughter] I don’t know. You laugh; this is a major source of conversation every morning in the White House here. [Laughter]

I also thank her for reminding us about the bold voyages of discovery, the important advances in human knowledge. I thank her for...