

working together to successfully resolve their disagreements, and I also commend the efforts of Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and the Director of the Federal Mediation

and Conciliation Service, Peter Hurtgen, for their tireless efforts in bringing this matter to a successful conclusion.”

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the Railroad Retirement Board

November 19, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board presented for forwarding to you for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2001, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(1)

of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
November 19, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 25.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Small Business

November 19, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

This report documents the state of small business at the end of the 20th century. Small businesses have always been the backbone of our economy. They perennially account for most innovation and job creation. Small businesses have sustained the economy when it is robust and growing as well as in weaker times when small businesses have put the economy back on the track to long-term growth.

We must work together to give small businesses an environment in which they can thrive. Small businesses are disproportionately affected by Government regulations and paperwork, and I am committed to reducing this burden. We should regulate only where there is a real need, fully justified through rigorous cost-benefit analysis and clear legal authority. And when Government must regulate, it must adopt commonsense approaches. Regulations

work best when agencies anticipate and analyze the effects of their proposals on small firms. Rules need to reflect the ability of small businesses to comply.

Another barrier to unleashing the full potential of small business is our tax code. I am committed to reducing taxes for all Americans—especially small businesses. We must eliminate permanently the estate tax, which so often has spelled the death of the business and the jobs of its employees after the death of its founder. Our tax code should encourage investment in small businesses, and particularly in new and growing businesses. Because the innovations that drive tomorrow's economy come from entrepreneurial small businesses today, we must help them enter the marketplace, not impede them before they get there. Above all, small businesses need a tax code that is understandable and stable. Fairness, simplicity, transparency, and accountability

should be our goals, and I am committed to this end.

Small business embodies so much of what America is all about. Self-reliance, hard work, innovation, the courage to take risks for future growth: these are values that have served our Nation well since its very beginning. They are values to be passed on from generation to generation. We must ensure that our small businesses

continue to thrive and prosper, not just for their own sakes, but for all of us.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
November 19, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 25.

Remarks on Presenting the Presidential Awards for Management Excellence

November 25, 2002

Thanks a lot. Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks for coming today. I'm honored to be here to present the Presidential Awards for Management Excellence. I guess that's Washington, DC, talk for people doing the job the taxpayers expect. [Laughter] These awards recognize the best management practices in Government. This year's recipients have met high standards and, as a result, have earned the respect of the White House and our country.

Kay, I want to thank you for your leadership in this issue. I appreciate you making sure that the awards ceremonies reflect the desires of this administration to provide excellence for every taxpayer, to make sure the services we provide are relevant and necessary, that people who put their heart into their work are able to say that we're doing the job that the people expect. Kay is doing a great job for our country, and I'm glad she's on my team.

And so is our Secretary of Transportation, Norm Mineta. He has performed brilliantly as a Cabinet Secretary. He has taken on some tough jobs. I'll never forget, on 9/11, knowing the fact that Norm was in charge of making sure that our airspace was cleared. He did a fantastic job, and from that point on, he's been just as magnificent in making sure our airports are se-

cure. I want to thank you for your service, Norm. He represents one of the award winners, the FAA Logistics Center. And thank you for being here, Mr. Secretary, and thanks for the note on our anniversary.

I appreciate David Chu being here as well. He represents the Defense Department. There are two award winners from the Defense Department here today, the National Imaging and Mapping Agency and the 55th Wing of Offutt Air Force Base. I want to thank Lt. Gen. James Clapper from the National Imaging and Mapping Agency for being here. And I want to thank Norman Bowles, who is the FAA Administration Logistics Center, for being here, and I want to thank Timothy Jones, the Commander of the 55th Wing, for coming as well. Congratulations for a job well done.

There were runner-ups for this award, and three of the finalists have representatives here today, starting with another member of my Cabinet, Christie Todd Whitman, who runs the Environmental Protection Agency. Christie Todd, thanks for being here. Pat Pizzella is the Assistant Secretary for Labor for Administration and Management. Pat, I appreciate you coming, and thank the good folks who almost won for their hard work. [Laughter] Lynn