

not only here in America, a free and just society. We believe in freedom around the world because everybody has got worth. See, one of the great principles of America is everybody has dignity. Everybody counts. Everybody matters. As I said in my State of the Union, liberty is not America's gift to the world. It is God's gift to human—mankind, and that's what I believe.

And as we think about how to have a better society and a more peaceful world, we've got to trust in the wisdom and strength of the American people. After all, the American people is this country's greatest asset.

I boldly predict that with good policy this economy will be strong. I boldly pre-

dict that with wise diplomatic policy the world will be more peaceful. And I can predict that, because we happen to live in the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. Thank you all for coming. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:13 p.m. in the Founders Room at the Society for Human Resource Management. In his remarks, he referred to Charles Schwab, chairman, Charles Schwab Corp.; Susan Meisinger, president and chief executive officer, and David B. Hutchins, chair, Society for Human Resource Management. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Initiatives To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions *February 12, 2003*

The United States is taking prudent steps to address the long-term challenge of global climate change. We are reducing projected greenhouse gas emissions in the near term, while devoting greater resources to improving climate change science and developing advanced energy technologies. America has already made great progress in this effort: Between 1990 and 2001, industrial sector emissions were held constant, while our economy grew by almost 40 percent. Sustaining and accelerating this progress will help us meet our goal of reducing the greenhouse gas intensity of the American economy by 18 percent by 2012.

A year ago, I challenged American businesses to develop new, voluntary initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I am pleased to announce today that 12 major industrial sectors and the membership of the Business Roundtable have responded with ambitious commitments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in the coming decade.

America's electric utilities; petroleum refiners and natural gas producers; chemical, automotive, magnesium, iron and steel manufacturers; forest and paper producers; railroads; the mining, cement, aluminum and semiconductor industries; and many of America's leading corporations have committed to actions that will prevent millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions in the coming decade. I commend these initiatives which will help these businesses and industries continue to improve their energy efficiency and overall productivity, while contributing toward achieving our goal to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of the American economy.

As I said last year, every sector of the economy will need to contribute to our efforts to achieve our ambitious national goal. These initiatives are a first step in what we expect to be an ongoing engagement with these and other sectors of our economy in the years ahead.

Underpinning our approach to climate change is an understanding that meeting

this long-term challenge requires policies that recognize that sustained economic growth is an essential part of the solution. Policies that undermine the health of our economy would only hamper America's ability to develop and deploy new energy technologies and invest in energy efficiency

and productivity improvements. The United States is the world's leader in technological development, industrial productivity, and environmental quality. These strengths make possible the initiatives that have been announced today to reduce or capture and store greenhouse gas emissions.

Memorandum on the Interagency Working Group on Assistive Technology Mobility Devices February 12, 2003

Memorandum for the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Labor, the Commissioner of Social Security

Subject: Interagency Working Group on Assistive Technology Mobility Devices

When President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, America opened its door to a new age for people with disabilities. Although much progress has been made since then, significant challenges remain for individuals with disabilities who seek full participation in American society.

My Administration is committed to increasing education and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. My New Freedom Initiative strives to provide people with disabilities increased opportunities to lead more independent lives by expanding education and job opportunities, and by ensuring that the latest technologies, which often make education and employment possible, are readily available.

Often, individuals with disabilities require assistive technology mobility devices—such as powered wheelchairs and scooters—in order to access education, training, and competitive employment. While there are several Federal programs, as well as State and local efforts, that help individuals with disabilities obtain these and other assistive technologies, they are not adequately co-

ordinated. Other Federal programs provide funding of assistive technology mobility devices for medical purposes, but the intent of these programs has always been, and should remain, medical rather than educational or vocational.

Consistent with my interest in improving the coordination of the Federal programs that help provide individuals with assistive technology mobility devices, I hereby direct the following:

Section 1. Establishment of the Interagency Working Group on Assistive Technology Mobility Devices. (a) There is hereby established, within the Department of Education for administrative purposes, the "Interagency Working Group on Assistive Technology Mobility Devices" (Working Group). The Working Group shall consist exclusively of:

- (i) the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Labor, and the Commissioner of Social Security; and
- (ii) such other Federal officials as the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy from time to time, on my behalf, may designate.

(b) The Secretary of Education shall serve as Chairman of the Working Group. The Chairman shall convene and preside at any meetings of the Working Group, determine its agenda, direct its work, and, as appropriate to particular subject matters,