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their responsibilities on the football field seriously. But they take them just as seriously off the field. They're generous with their time for charity and for their communities. So that explains why we're doing something a little bit different here today than when sports champions usually come to visit the White House. These guys have agreed to stick around for a while, and we're going to team them up, not to run some plays, but to serve others.

I often say that the beauty of serving others is that anyone can do it. You don't have to be President, and you don't have to be a pro football player. All you need to do is to have a desire to make a difference, to give back to your community, and to contribute to your nation. And that's what we're going to do right here. We're going to work with the USO to put together 3,000 care packages for our troops serving in harm's way.

We're going to give back to those who've given so much for us. And I find that fitting and proper, a good way to kick off a weekend that serves to honor all the men and women who have worn the proud uniform of this country that we love.

So congratulations, again, Steelers, for a extraordinary season. Good luck next year, and thank you again for your willingness to go above and beyond and not just come here for a photo op, but to join the men and women who protect this country to make sure that we are safe.

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:49 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Deborah Mullen, wife of Adm. Michael G. Mullen, USN, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Teresa Heinz Kerry, chairman, Heinz Family Philanthropies and Heinz Endowments; Rep. Thomas J. Rooney; Rep. Glenn Thompson; Daniel M. Rooney, U.S. Ambassador-designate to Ireland and chairman, Pittsburgh Steelers; Terry Bradshaw, former quarterback, Franco Harris, former running back, Joe Greene, former defensive tackle, Jerome Bettis, former running back, Ben Roethlisberger, quarterback, James Farrior, linebacker, Jeff Reed, placekicker, Hines Ward, wide receiver, and Santonio Holmes, wide receiver, Pittsburg Steelers; and Kiya Winston Tomlin, wife of Coach Mike P. Tomlin of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Statement on Energy and Commerce Committee Action on Energy and Climate Legislation

May 21, 2009

I commend Chairman Waxman and the members of the Energy and Commerce Committee for a successful effort to pass a comprehensive energy and climate bill out of their committee today. We are now one step closer to delivering on the promise of a new, clean energy economy that will make America less dependent on foreign oil, crack down on polluters, and create millions of new jobs all across America. The bill is historic for what it achieves, providing clean energy incentives that encourage innovation while recognizing the concerns of sensitive industries and regions in this country. And this achievement is all the more historic for bringing together many who have in the past opposed a common effort, from labor unions to corporate CEOs, and environmentalists to energy companies. I applaud the committee for its action and look forward to signing comprehensive legislation.