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Statement on Signing the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1998

October 13, 1997

I have today signed into law H.R. 2203, the ''Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1998,'' which provides $20.7 billion in discretionary budget authority for the discretionary programs of the Department of Energy (DOE), the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers, and several smaller agencies.

The Act provides necessary funding to continue DOE's commitment to ensuring the safety and reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile and DOE's investment in developing advanced renewable energy technologies. The Act also provides essential funding to develop and protect the Nation's environmental resources.

I hereby declare $5 million from the Construction General account of the Army Corps of Engineers for the construction of an emergency outlet for Devils Lake, North Dakota, as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D)(I) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

I urge the Congress to complete action on the remaining FY 1998 appropriations bills as quickly as possible, and to send them to me in an acceptable form.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 13, 1997.

NOTE: H.R. 2203, approved October 13, was assigned Public Law No. 105–62.

Statement on the Death of John Denver

October 13, 1997

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of the death of John Denver. His soaring music evoked the grandeur of our landscape and the simple warmth of human love. He was a dedicated champion of the environment, spending many hours on the vital work of protecting natural heritage. And he opened many doors to understanding among nations through his tours of the Soviet Union, China, and Vietnam. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and to his millions of fans.

Remarks at a Reception With President Fernando Cardoso of Brazil in Brasilia

October 13, 1997

President and Mrs. Cardoso, members of the Brazilian Government, my fellow Americans, honored guests. Let me say, on behalf of all of us who are here, it is wonderful to be in Brazil, but it is especially wonderful for me. I have wanted to come here for a long time, and even more since Hillary returned from her fantastic visit here.

When President Cardoso made his state visit to the United States, I pledged to return the favor. And finally, the day has arrived, and I am in the City of the Sky, glad to be here. Thank you.

Brazil has haunted my imagination for over 30 years, since I first fell in love with your music as a young man. And Brazil has loomed large in my vision of the future of this hemisphere and the world since I became President. I come to Brazil to strengthen our partnership in a spirit of respect and equality, a partnership rooted in common values and common aspirations.

We have been friends in freedom for a long time. In 1824, the United States was the first nation to recognize Brazil's independence. In World War II, Brazil stood by America's side on the battlefields of Europe with a force of 25,000 troops to fight for liberty's survival.

Now, at the dawn of the 21st century, the freedom we cherish is ascendant. Every nation in our hemisphere but one is a democracy. Open markets are taking root. Cooperation and trade are expanding. We have an opportunity to make all the Americas a stronghold of freedom and prosperity, of peace and security, advancing our own well-being and serving as a beacon of hope to others.

With the largest populations and the largest economies in the Americas, sharing both the virtues and the challenges of our size and