

NOTE: At the time of publication, H.J. Res. 114, approved October 20, had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register in time for assignment of a public law number.

Statement on General Motors Success in Tripling Average Fuel Economy

October 20, 2000

I congratulate General Motors on the news today that its Precept hybrid vehicle has achieved fuel economy of 80 miles per gallon. This extraordinary achievement is the result in part of a Government/industry effort, the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles, begun by Vice President Gore in 1994. The goal set then in the face of strong skepticism was to triple average fuel economy. This car meets that test.

Today's announcement is further evidence that the investments in clean energy technologies we have made over the last 8 years are paying off. The benefits of these investments include not only improved gas mileage and a cleaner environment but also reduced dependence on foreign oil. These technologies are a cornerstone of this administration's effective and forward-looking energy and environmental policy.

Indeed, while America's gross domestic product has grown by more than 20 percent over the last 5 years, energy usage has increased by less than 8 percent. This trend of reduced energy intensity in our economy is critical to ensuring a healthy environment and strong, sustainable economic growth.

But we must do more. Unfortunately, Congress has refused to act on our package of consumer tax credits—including credits of up to \$4,000 for consumers to purchase the next generation of fuel-efficient vehicles. At a time that America's business leaders are making headlines every day with new investments in clean energy technologies, it is time that Congress joins us in these important efforts to strengthen America's energy security.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 14

In the morning, the President traveled to Denver, CO, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Seattle, WA. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

October 15

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt, arriving October 16.

October 16

In the morning, the President met with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in the Sinai Suite at the Jolie Ville Golf Resort. Later, he met separately with Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel, Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority, King Abdullah II of Jordan, and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in the Noweiba Suite at the resort.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peggy Goldwater-Clay to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bill Duke to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities.

The President announced his intention to reappoint Frances M. Visco as a member of the President's Cancer Panel.

October 17

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a disaster in Michigan and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on September 10–11.