AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

resource or quality resulting from an incident, including but not limited to spills and groundings, caused by a component of the Department of Defense or any other Federal agency, the cognizant component shall promptly coordinate with the Secretary of the Interior for the purpose of taking appropriate actions to respond to and mitigate the harm and, if possible, restore or replace the monument resource or quality.

4. Nothing in this proclamation or any regulation implementing it shall limit or otherwise affect the Armed Forces' discretion to use, maintain, improve, or manage any real property under the administrative control of a Military Department or otherwise limit the availability of such real property for military mission purposes.

The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the national monument shall be the dominant reservation.

Nothing in this proclamation shall alter the authority of any Federal agency to take action in the monument area where otherwise authorized under applicable legal authorities, except as provided by this proclamation.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any lands thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 9, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation and its annexes will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 10.

Remarks on the National Economy

December 5, 2008

Today's job data reflects the fact that our economy is in a recession. This is in large part because of severe problems in our housing, credit, and financial markets, which have resulted in significant job losses. I'm concerned about our workers who've lost jobs during this downturn, and I'm—as we work to address the problems of this economy, we've extended unemployment insurance benefits to those who have lost their jobs during this downturn.

We are focusing on the root causes of the economic downturn in order to return our economy to health. The most urgent issue facing the economy is the problem in the credit markets. Businesses and consumers need access to credit at affordable rates to spend and invest. And so we're working to stabilize the markets and make credit more affordable and available. We're working with the Federal Reserve and FDIC, and credit is beginning to move. A market that was frozen is thawing. There's still more work to do, but there are some encouraging signs.

A root cause of the slowdown is housing. And so we continue to take actions that will avoid preventable foreclosures and speed a return to a healthy housing market. Interest rates help the housing market recover, and interest rates, mortgage rates are going down. And plus there's a number of programs in place to help Americans stay in their homes, to limit the preventable foreclosures.

I am concerned about the viability of the automobile companies. I'm concerned about those who work for the automobile companies and their families. And likewise, I am concerned about taxpayer money being provided to those companies that may not survive. Put out a detailed plan recently that uses money that Congress appropriated last fall for the auto industry, money that can be used so long as the companies make hard choices on all aspects of their business to prove that they can not only survive but thrive.

It is important that Congress act next week on this plan. And it's important to make sure that taxpayers' money be paid back if any is given to the companies.

It's going to take time for all the actions we have taken to have their full impact. But I am confident that the steps we're taking will help fix the problems in our economy and return it to strength. My administration is committed to ensuring that our economy succeeds. And I know the incoming administration shares the same commitment.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:29 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

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.

November 29

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

November 30

In the afternoon, on the North Lawn, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in the presentation of the White House Christmas tree.

December 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Situation Room, he received an update on the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, followed by an update on the situation in Iraq.

December 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Greensboro, NC, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Donna Turner.

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

In the evening, at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the President and Mrs. Bush attended an advance appreciation reception.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roszell Dulany Hunter to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Brad Cole to be a member of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The President announced his intention to appoint James W. Ceaser as a member of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board: B. John Garrick (and, upon approval, desginate him as Chair); William Howard Arnold; George Milton Hornberger; Andrew C. Kadak; Ali Mosleh; and Henry Petroski.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Commission To Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino: Anna Regula Haug de Cablik; Gilberto Cardenas; Doreen M. Colon Camacho; Dorene C. Dominguez; Jose B. Fernandez; Patrick Alexander Lopez Negrete; and Ricardo Romo.

The President announced his intention to appoint Randolph D. Brock III and Frederic V. Malek as members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Military Academy.

The President announced his intention to appoint Nancy L. Johnson and Albert Hawkins III as members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Naval Academy.

December 3

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with members of the Commission on Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism.

December 4

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, on the State Floor and then in the Map Room, he participated in an interview with John Yang of NBC News.