

The original documents are located in Box 11, “7/9/75 - Signing of Tourism Bill, U.S. Travel Service Authorization” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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~~THE~~ PRESIDENT HAS SEEN ~~.....~~

SIGNING OF TOURISM BILL --
U.S. TRAVEL SERVICE AUTHORIZATION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1975

I AM PLEASED TODAY TO SIGN INTO LAW S. 2003, WHICH
AUTHORIZES THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO CARRY OUT A VARIETY
OF INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TOURISM PROGRAMS. THIS ACT
PROVIDES AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE CORRECTING THE MAJOR PROBLEM
CONTAINED IN H.R. 5357 WHICH I VETOED IN MAY.

I COMMEND THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OF BOTH PARTIES FOR ENACTING THIS LEGISLATION. THIS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH CAN -- AND SHOULD -- WORK TOGETHER TO ASSIST AN INDUSTRY WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO AMERICA.

AS WE CELEBRATE OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR, I BELIEVE THIS IS AN IDEAL TIME TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN AND AMERICAN TOURISTS TO VISIT THE WONDERS OF OUR NATION. THE PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED BY THIS LEGISLATION WILL ENABLE A GREATER NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO ENJOY THE UNIQUE ATTRACTIONS OF AMERICA THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE OTHERWISE.

I HAD VETOED THE EARLIER TOURISM BILL BECAUSE SOME OF
ITS PROVISIONS INFRINGED ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND PREROGATIVES
OF THE STATES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THE CONGRESS HAS CORRECTED THIS DEFECT. THE
LEGISLATION I AM ABOUT TO SIGN REPRESENTS A RESPONSIBLE AND
EFFECTIVE APPROACH FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGEMENT OF
TOURISM IN AMERICA.

I AGAIN THANK THE CONGRESS FOR ITS CONSTRUCTIVE
COMPROMISE AND HOPE THAT THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WILL
CONTINUE IN OTHER BADLY-NEEDED MEASURES.

IN CLOSING, I URGE ALL AMERICANS AND OUR NEIGHBORS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO JOIN OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AND
TAKE THIS SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE OUR FASCINATING AND
BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY.

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