

**The original documents are located in Box 21, “12/22/75 - Remarks Upon Signing the Energy Bill Recently Passed by Congress” 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 STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

ON THE

ENERGY BILL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1975

THE TIME HAS COME TO END THE LONG DEBATE OVER NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES AND PUT OURSELVES SOLIDLY ON THE ROAD TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE. WE CANNOT AFFORD CONTINUED DELAYS; WE CANNOT AFFORD PROLONGED VULNERABILITY TO FOREIGN PRODUCERS; WE MUST ACT. IT IS IN THAT SPIRIT THAT I HAVE DECIDED TO SIGN THE ENERGY BILL JUST PASSED BY THE CONGRESS.

WHILE THIS BILL IS ONLY A BEGINNING, IT DOES ACHIEVE

SEVERAL MAJOR OBJECTIVES:

-- IT OPENS THE WAY TO AN ORDERLY PHASING OUT OF CONTROLS

ON DOMESTIC OIL, THEREBY STIMULATING OUR OWN OIL PRODUCTION;

-- AS I REQUESTED EARLIER THIS YEAR, IT WILL ENABLE US TO SET UP A STRATEGIC OIL STORAGE SYSTEM, CONVERT MORE UTILITY AND INDUSTRIAL PLANTS TO COAL, AND TAKE OTHER STEPS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION AND PROMOTE ENERGY CONSERVATION;

-- IT MAKES POSSIBLE REMOVAL OF THE OIL IMPORT FEE OF  
TWO DOLLARS A BARREL;

-- AND FINALLY, IT PROVIDES A FOUNDATION UPON WHICH WE CAN  
BUILD A MORE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR THE FUTURE. I NOW

ASK THE CONGRESS TO WORK WITH ME TO PUT INTO PLACE THE ADDITIONAL

PROGRAMS ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, *including*

*immediate Congressional action to deregulate natural*

END OF TEXT

*gas to stimulate greater production.*