

**The original documents are located in Box 24, “2/26/76 - Remarks Upon the Signing of the Energy Message to 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. ....

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

SIGNING OF THE ENERGY MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 26, 1976

JUST OVER TWO YEARS AGO, THE ARAB EMBARGO

TAUGHT US THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD BECOME TOO DEPENDENT

UPON OTHER COUNTRIES FOR OUR OIL SUPPLIES.

WE LEARNED THE HIGH PRICE OF EXCESSIVE DEPENDENCE,

IN DOLLARS AND IN JOBS.

TODAY THERE IS A REAL DANGER THAT PRESENT  
CONDITIONS MAY LULL US INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY.  
THE LONG LINES AT GASOLINE STATIONS HAVE FADED FROM MOST  
PEOPLE'S MEMORIES. BUT WE STILL HAVE A SERIOUS ENERGY  
PROBLEM. THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE ARE STILL FAR TOO  
DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN SOURCES OF OIL. THIS PROBLEM  
WILL GET WORSE IF WE DO NOT ACT QUICKLY.

DURING THE PAST YEAR I HAVE PLACED BEFORE THE  
CONGRESS A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS  
DESIGNED TO HELP US ACHIEVE OUR GOAL OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.  
MY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1977 PROVIDES FOR A 30 PERCENT  
INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.  
I HAVE TAKEN THE STEPS POSSIBLE WITHIN EXISTING AUTHORITY.  
THE NEED NOW IS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

I AM ANNOUNCING TODAY A SIGNIFICANT NEW  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH A CLEAR  
PROCEDURE AND TIMETABLE FOR BRINGING NEEDED NATURAL  
GAS SUPPLIES FROM THE NORTH SLOPE OF ALASKA TO THE  
LOWER 48 STATES●

AFTER MONTHS OF DEBATE ON ENERGY, THE CONGRESS  
HAS COMPLETED ACTION ON ONLY ONE MAJOR PIECE OF  
ENERGY LEGISLATION. MY EIGHTEEN OTHER MAJOR LEGISLATIVE  
PROPOSALS, WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING OUR NATIONAL  
ENERGY GOALS, STILL AWAIT FINAL ACTION BY THE CONGRESS.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO DEREGULATE THE PRICE

OF NEW NATURAL GAS IS THE MOST ESSENTIAL OF THESE LEGISLATIVE  
PROPOSALS IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

THE BILL PASSED BY THE SENATE WOULD INCREASE 1985 PRODUCTION

BY OVER 25 PERCENT MORE THAN UNDER CURRENT REGULATIONS,

CUTTING OIL IMPORTS BY ALMOST THREE MILLION BARRELS PER DAY.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE HOUSE HAS NOT SHOWN THE SAME

FORESIGHT AND THE LEGISLATION IT PASSED WOULD FURTHER SPEED

THE DECLINE IN DOMESTIC NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION.

IN THE LONG RUN, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL PAY MORE

UNDER CURRENT REGULATIONS THAN IF WE ACT TO STIMULATE

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION. I HOPE THE CONGRESS HAS THE WISDOM

TO ACT ON A MEANINGFUL BILL AND DO SO QUICKLY.

END OF TEXT