

The original documents are located in Box 5, folder “1/23/75 - Statement for Proclamation on Increasing Imported Oil Fees” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *A.J.*

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT TO
ACCOMPANY PROCLAMATION ON
INCREASING IMPORTED OIL FEES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1975

IN MY STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS, I SET FORTH FOR
THE NATION ENERGY GOALS TO ASSURE THAT OUR FUTURE IS AS SECURE
AND PRODUCTIVE AS OUR PAST.

THE PROCLAMATION I AM ABOUT TO SIGN IS THE FIRST
STEP DOWN THE LONG AND DIFFICULT ROAD TOWARD REGAINING OUR
ENERGY FREEDOM. THE PROCLAMATION WILL GRADUALLY IMPOSE
HIGHER FEES ON IMPORTED OIL, AND THIS WILL RESULT IN
SUBSTANTIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION BY THE UNITED STATES.

AS WE BEGIN TO ACHIEVE OUR NEAR-TERM CONSERVATION GOALS, THE NATION WILL ONCE AGAIN BE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION -- WHICH IS AWAY FROM ENERGY DEPENDENCE. EACH DAY THAT PASSES WITHOUT STRONG AND TOUGH ACTION, WHICH THIS PROCLAMATION IS, RESULTS IN A FURTHER DRAIN ON OUR NATIONAL WEALTH AND ON THE JOBS IT CREATES FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

EACH DAY WITHOUT ACTION MEANS THAT OUR ECONOMY BECOMES MORE
AND MORE VULNERABLE TO SERIOUS DISRUPTION. EACH DAY WITHOUT
ACTION INCREASES THE THREAT TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AND WELFARE.

THIS PROCLAMATION -- WHICH IS JUST AS FAIR AND
EQUITABLE AS THE LAW PERMITS -- MUST NOW BE FOLLOWED BY POSITIVE
CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. THE NATION NEEDS A FULLY COMPREHENSIVE
AND LONG-RANGE ENERGY PROGRAM -- ONE THAT INCREASES DOMESTIC
ENERGY SUPPLIES AND ENCOURAGES LASTING CONSERVATION.

TO REACH OUR NATIONAL ENERGY GOALS, WE NEED THE HELP OF
EACH AMERICAN AND -- ESPECIALLY -- THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
IN THE CONGRESS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO VIGOROUS DEBATE AND SERIOUS
CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON OUR COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN.

THE CRUCIAL POINT IS THAT THIS PROCLAMATION MOVES US IN

THE RIGHT DIRECTION WHILE WE WORK TO ENACT THE ENERGY

LEGISLATION. THE TACTICS OF DELAY AND PROPOSALS WHICH

WOULD ALLOW OUR DEPENDENCY AND VULNERABILITY TO INCREASE

WILL NOT BE TOLERATED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- NOR SHOULD

THEY BE.

THE NEW ENERGY-SAVING FEES PUT US ON THE RIGHT

PATH. THERE ARE PROBLEMS AHEAD. THERE WILL BE HARDSHIPS.

LET US GET ON WITH THE JOB OF SOLVING THIS ENERGY PROBLEM.

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