The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “3/4/75 - Statement on Veto of H.R. 1767” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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STATEMENT ON VETO OF H.R. 1767

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1975
IN MID-JANUARY, I SAID THIS COUNTRY NEEDED AN IMMEDIATE FEDERAL INCOME TAX CUT TO REVERSE THE CURRENT RECESSIION AND CREATE MORE JOBS.

I WENT TO THE NEW CONGRESS WITH A SPECIFIC PROGRAM OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS AGAINST RECESSION, INFLATION AND ENERGY DEPENDENCE. I ASKED CONGRESS TO ACT BY APRIL FIRST.
I used the authority Congress had given the President to apply additional tariffs on most foreign oil.

I did this for two reasons: first, as an immediate step toward energy conservation -- the only step taken so far to slow the inflow of foreign oil and the outflow of American dollars; and, secondly, to prompt the Congress to action on energy independence.
THE CONGRESS RESPONDED INITIALLY BY SAYING IT NEEDED MORE TIME. IT PUSHED THROUGH THIS ACT (HOLD IT UP) TO TAKE AWAY PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE TARIFFS ON FOREIGN OIL FOR NINETY DAYS.
I am vetoing this negative act for the compelling reasons outlined in a message sent to the Congress today.

However, I meant what I said about cooperation with the Congress. I want to give the Congress a reasonable time to act, and the opportunity to avoid a confrontation which helps nobody, least of all the American people.
I DO THIS READILY BECAUSE THE MOST IMPORTANT BUSINESS

BEFORE US AFTER FIFTY DAYS OF DEBATE IS STILL THE ECONOMIC

STIMULANT THAT COULD BE PROVIDED BY THE INCOME TAX REFUNDS

TO INDIVIDUALS, AND JOB-CREATING TAX CREDITS TO FARMERS AND

BUSINESSMEN THAT I CALLED FOR IN JANUARY.
LAST FRIDAY, THE MAJORITY LEADERS OF THE CONGRESS ASKED ME TO DELAY SCHEDULED INCREASES IN THE TAX ON FOREIGN OIL FOR ANOTHER SIXTY DAYS WHILE THEY WORK OUT THE SPECIFICS OF THEIR OWN ENERGY POLICY. I FIND THIS REQUEST REASONABLE.
THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THE CONGRESS IS FINALLY MOVING ON OUR URGENT NATIONAL ENERGY PROBLEM. I WELCOME THESE EFFORTS AND THE LEADERSHIP SHOWN. I AM, THEREFORE, AMENDING MY TARIFF PROCLAMATION TO POSTPONE FOR TWO MONTHS THE INCREASES SCHEDULED FOR MARCH AND APRIL.
HOPEFULLY, WE CAN AGREE ON AN ENERGY PROGRAM BY MAY FIRST. A MOST COMPELLING REASON FOR THIS SIXTY-DAY POSTPONEMENT IS THAT I WANT NO PART IN DELAYING THE SPEEDY ENACTMENT BY THE CONGRESS OF THE INCOME TAX CUTS WHICH CAN BE ON THIS DESK BY THE END OF MARCH. WE HAVE EXACTLY FOUR WEEKS.
WHAT WE NEED NOW IS A SIMPLE TAX CUT TO REVIVE OUR ECONOMY AND MAKE MORE JOBS.

WHAT WE NEED NEXT IS A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PROGRAM TO END OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL PRODUCERS.
WHAT WE DON'T NEED IS A TIME-WASTING TEST OF STRENGTH BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT. WHAT WE DO NEED IS A SHOW OF STRENGTH THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CAN ACT DECISIVELY AND WITH DISPATCH.

END OF TEXT