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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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 IMPROVED ACTION TO DEREGULATE NATURAL GAS TO STIMULATE GREATER PRODUCTION.