

**The original documents are located in Box 28, “4/5/76 - Signing Statement, Naval Petroleum Reserves Act of 1976” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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SIGNING STATEMENT

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

NAVAL PETROLEUM RESERVES ACT OF 1976

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1976

SECRETARY RUMSFELD

SECRETARY KLEPPE

ADMINISTRATOR ZARB

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE

JUST OVER TWO YEARS AGO THE ARAB OIL EMBARGO TAUGHT US  
THE UNITED STATES HAD BECOME FAR TOO DEPENDENT UPON OTHER NATIONS  
FOR OUR OIL SUPPLIES.

WE LEARNED ALL TOO WELL THE HIGH PRICE OF ENERGY  
DEPENDENCE, BOTH IN TERMS OF INFLATION AND LOST JOBS.

OVER A YEAR AGO, IN MY FIRST STATE OF THE UNION  
MESSAGE, I SET FORTH GOALS FOR REGAINING OUR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE  
AND A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR ACHIEVING THOSE GOALS.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, I SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS  
MY COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PLAN, WHICH CONTAINED  
SPECIFIC PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE CONSERVATION AND INCREASE  
DOMESTIC PRODUCTION.

ONE OF MY PROPOSALS CALLED FOR DEVELOPMENT AND  
PRODUCTION OF OUR NAVAL PETROLEUM RESERVES.

THIS STEP IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT IS ONE  
ACTION WE CAN TAKE TO GET AN IMMEDIATE INCREASE IN DOMESTIC  
OIL PRODUCTION, THEREBY LESSENING OUR RELIANCE ON IMPORTED OIL.

ACCORDINGLY, TODAY I SIGN INTO LAW THE NAVAL  
PETROLEUM RESERVES PRODUCTION ACT OF 1976. THIS ACT DIRECTS  
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY TO BEGIN FULL-SCALE PRODUCTION  
FROM THE TWO PETROLEUM RESERVES IN CALIFORNIA,  
INCLUDING ELK HILLS, AND FROM ONE IN WYOMING.

WHEN IN FULL PRODUCTION, THESE THREE RESERVES  
WILL PROVIDE MORE THAN 300,000 BARRELS OF OIL PER DAY --  
WHICH REPRESENTS ABOUT FOUR PERCENT OF WHAT WE NOW IMPORT DAILY  
FROM FOREIGN SUPPLIERS.

THE NEW ACT ALSO MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR PRODUCTION  
FROM THE NAVAL RESERVES TO CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO THE CREATION  
OF THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE AUTHORIZED IN THE ENERGY POLICY  
AND CONSERVATION ACT WHICH I SIGNED ON DECEMBER 22, 1975.

ONCE ESTABLISHED, THE STRATEGIC RESERVE WILL PROVIDE BOTH A  
DETERRENT TO FUTURE EMBARGOES AND A SIGNIFICANT MEANS  
TO OFFSET THE EFFECTS OF ANY FUTURE SUPPLY INTERRUPTION.

THE STRATEGIC RESERVE WILL PERMIT US TO HAVE NEEDED  
PETROLEUM MUCH MORE READILY AVAILABLE IN THE CASE  
OF AN EMERGENCY FOR OUR ARMED SERVICES AND OTHER CRITICAL  
NATIONAL NEEDS.

THE ACT ALSO REDESIGNATES THE NAVAL RESERVE IN ALASKA  
AS A NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE TO BE MANAGED BY THE  
INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

THIS ACT IS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD REVERSING  
OUR DECLINING DOMESTIC OIL PRODUCTION. BUT OTHER STEPS  
MUST BE TAKEN.

EIGHTEEN MAJOR ENERGY PROPOSALS STILL AWAIT CONGRESSIONAL

APPROVAL. I URGE THE CONGRESS TO MOVE AHEAD ON THESE

18 INITIATIVES, SO THAT AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 200th YEAR

OF INDEPENDENCE, WE TAKE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TOWARD ACHIEVING

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AS WELL.

END OF TEXT