

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):

FOIA Number:

S

FOIA MARKER

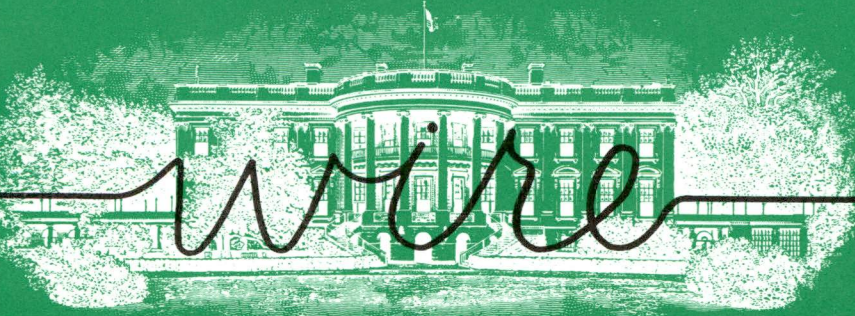
This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Grant, Mary Kate, Files
Subseries: Subject File, 1988-1991

OA/ID Number: 13878
Folder ID Number: 13878-017

Folder Title:
White House Wire-Clean Air, 6/19/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	19	2	7	3



. . . on the Environment

June 19, 1989

PRESIDENT BUSH UNVEILS CLEAN AIR PROPOSAL

On Monday, June 12, President Bush unveiled a sweeping program to ensure clean air for all Americans. In announcing the comprehensive program, the President said, "This legislation will be comprehensive -- and cost effective -- but above all, it will work. We will make the 1990s the era for clean air."

The President's plan calls for the first revisions to the Clean Air Act since 1977, and is designed to curb three major threats to the nation's environment and to the health of millions of Americans: acid rain, urban air pollution, and toxic air emissions.

While emissions of some pollutants -- such as sulfur dioxide, urban ozone and carbon monoxide -- have been reduced since passage of the 1970 law, progress has not come quickly enough. The President's plan will dramatically accelerate the pace of pollution reduction and put America on the path toward markedly cleaner air by the end of the century.

The Administration's plan has three clear areas, and three clear deadlines:

ACID RAIN

Sulfur dioxide emissions that cause acid rain will be cut in half, by ten million tons -- and nitrogen oxide levels cut by two million tons -- by the end of this century.

Companies will be allowed to trade credits among themselves for reductions they make, so that they can decide how to bring aggregate emissions down as cost-effectively as possible.

URBAN AIR POLLUTION

By employing a mix of federal measures and state initiatives, this legislation will sharply cut air pollution in our cities. The federal measures alone will cut hydrocarbon emissions -- which contribute to urban ozone -- virtually in half.

Currently, 81 cities don't meet Federal air quality standards. This legislation will bring clean air to all but 25 cities by 1995 -- and within 20 years, even to Los Angeles, Houston and New York.

In the nine urban areas with the greatest smog problems, smog will be cut through alternative fuels and clean-fueled vehicles. The President is calling for the phased in introduction of a half a million clean-fueled vehicles in 1995, building up to a million in 1997, through 2007.

To the maximum extent feasible, automobile and fuel companies will be allowed to trade reduction credits among themselves. This "emissions trading" concept is being considered by the state of California as an effective way to tap the power of the marketplace, and is being proposed nationwide.

TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS

All categories of airborne toxic chemicals should be cut by 75 percent by the year 2000. In its first phase, this initiative should eliminate about three-quarters of the needless deaths from cancer that are suspected to have been caused by toxic industrial air emissions.

Until now, because of an unworkable law, the EPA has been able to regulate only seven of the 280 known air toxics. These reforms will allow EPA to do its job better, and will apply the most advanced industrial technology available to control these airborne poisons. The legislation promises certifiable progress in regulating sources of toxic air emissions on a set schedule.

After proposing this important legislation, the President said, "For ten years we have struggled to engage in a united effort on behalf of clean air. We are now on the edge of real change. 1989 could be recorded as the year when business leaders and environmental advocates began to work together. When environmental issues moved out of the courts, beyond conflict, into a new era of cooperation. This can be known as the year we mobilized leadership, both public and private, to make environmental protection a growth industry -- and keep our ecology safe for diversity."

Specific legislation will be sent to the Congress within the next few weeks.

FIVE GOALS GUIDING THE PRESIDENT'S CLEAN AIR PROPOSALS

In announcing the Clean Air package, President Bush outlined five points of a new environmental philosophy:

- o **Protecting the public's health.** The goal of the legislation is to prevent public exposure to cancer-causing agents and to protect those citizens, especially vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, and children, who live in cities with dirty air.
- o **Improving the quality of life.** The proposal will improve the quality of life for all Americans by exercising responsible stewardship over the environment for future generations.

- o **Achieving early reductions and steady progress.** The proposal establishes realistic timetables to meet air quality standards, but contains provisions to cut substantial amounts of air pollution in the near term, while requiring steady progress toward reducing emissions that are harder to control.
- o **Harnessing the power of the marketplace.** The proposal calls for the use of marketable permits to achieve acid rain reductions and emissions trading to achieve reductions from automobile pollution, cleaning the air to a definite standard while minimizing the burden on the American economy.
- o **Employing innovative technologies.** The proposal encourages development of clean coal technology, alternative fuel systems for automobiles, and other cost-effective means of using new technology to cut pollution.

The President's plan allows for both environmental protection and economic growth, two long-standing concerns often considered at odds with each other. By incorporating both concerns in his proposal, President Bush seeks to break the gridlock which has characterized the debate on clean air for the past several years.

PRESIDENT DRAWS ON EXPERIENCE OF INDUSTRY, ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

During the formulation of the Administration's clean air policy, the President and Administration officials met with a cross-section of concerned environmental, business and public policy groups.

At White House briefings, the President heard policy recommendations from the Clean Air Working Group. This group, composed of business and industry leaders, seeks to balance economic growth with environmental preservation.

At the direction of the President, Administration officials met several times with Project 88, an active public policy study group led by Senators John Heinz (R-PA) and Tim Wirth (D-CO). The President also met with a number of leaders from the environmental movement, including the Environmental Defense Fund, the National Clean Air Coalition and The Group of Ten, representing the ten largest environmental membership organizations in the country.

A wide selection of American industries and manufacturers had input, including leaders from major automobile, steel, petroleum, coal, utilities, and chemical companies -- those most likely to be affected by the upcoming legislation. The President also consulted with Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney before releasing the initiative.

WIDESPREAD SUPPORT SEEN FOR PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL PACKAGE

Americans concerned with the state of our environment are speaking out in favor of the President's initiative:

"The principles of the Bush Administration's proposed clean air legislation, as announced today at the White House, are solid evidence that the President is indeed serious about improving our environment in a cost-efficient and effective manner. This is leadership that can, as the President put it, 'break the stalemate' on achieving our clean air goals."

-- George H. Lawrence, President, American Gas Association

"I want to congratulate the President and his Administration for coming forward with an excellent Clean Air proposal. The President made this promise during the campaign, and he has met the promise ... The President has done an excellent job."

-- U.S. Senator John Chafee (R-RI); ranking Republican, Senate Environment Committee

"The President's [clean air] proposal breaks new ground in two ways: Not only does it clear the Congressional logjam on acid rain, but it also uses innovative market incentive proposals that will get businesses working for the environment -- instead of against it. ... The President's acid rain proposal is a breath of fresh air. Instead of command and centralized control with inevitable industrial resistance, the plan gives powerful dollar incentives to get quick results. The President's innovative plan meets his pledge to act on acid rain -- and not to raise taxes, while minimizing the costs for ratepayers and consumers."

-- Fred Krupp, Executive Director, Environmental Defense Fund

"It is a tough proposal, but it does take into account some of the technical difficulties we would face in meeting it ... This [proposal] will make a further automotive contribution to the national effort on clean air."

-- Harold A. Poling, Vice Chairman of the Board, Ford Motor Co.

"The proposal by the President is a major step forward. From an environmentalist point of view, we are pleased that the President invested so much of his time and energy in this. Given the choices he had put forward to him, the President came out on the side of environmental protection strongly. We expect this will help break the paralysis of the last decade and move us forward."

-- George T. Frampton, Jr., President, The Wilderness Society

.....
CHANGE OF ADDRESS REQUEST

Name _____
Address _____
Phone # _____

Please attach incorrect label and return to:

The White House Office of Public Affairs
OEOB, Room 122
Washington, D.C. 20500