

FOIA MARKER

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Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Public Liaison

Series/Staff Member: William White, Jr.

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 14205

FolderID:

Folder Title:

DOT [Department of Transportation] / Disabilities

Stack:

S

Row:

31

Section:

2

Shelf:

10

Position:

1

Mr. Mike Auberger
National Organizer
ADAPT
12 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Mike:

Thank you for your letter of October 21, 1994, concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I want to underscore this Administration's steadfast commitment to full implementation of the ADA, so that all Americans have the opportunity to live to the fullest of their abilities. Our record thus far demonstrates this. From the White House South Lawn to the innermost councils of government, we have given high visibility and attention to this cause. We have launched a public service campaign to educate Americans on the Act; we have pursued numerous state and local governments accused of violating the rights of people with disabilities; we have investigated hotels, restaurants, theaters, stores and other public accommodations to achieve greater access. Furthermore, I have fought hard to complete the work of the ADA by passing a comprehensive health care reform bill -- and I will continue that fight.

This Administration has included the disability community in the decision-making process at every level. We have brought in the national and grassroots leaders for unprecedented numbers of meetings and we have made a record number of appointments of disability leaders to important administration positions.

We understand the importance of access to transportation for people with disabilities. We remain committed to inclusion, not exclusion; independence not dependence; and empowerment, not paternalism.

Your letter addresses proposed rules now being drafted by the Department of Transportation. I have therefore forwarded your letter to Secretary Pena for any appropriate action.

Thank you again for your letter. My administration will continue to work closely with you on matters of concern to the disability community.

I have referred your concerns to Secretary of Transportation Frederico Pena for his immediate action. He is currently reviewing the issues you raised. As he said in his October 12 meeting with you and ADAPT, because this is a matter currently pending before the Department of Transportation, he cannot specifically comment on the merits of the issue. Nevertheless, he is seriously considering the concerns you raised on behalf of the disability community at your meeting. I assure you that the notice of the proposed rule making is being given top priority by the Department of Transportation. Because of Secretary Pena's strong record on disability related issues, I am confident he will consider your position and quickly reach an equitable rule consistent with the letter and spirit of the ADA.

October 28, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR CHERYL MILLS

FROM: Debbie Fine, Office of Public Liaison

SUBJECT: Attached Letter

Attached is a draft letter from the President regarding a rule making procedure at the Department of Transportation. Also attached is the letter to which it is responding from a disability organization.

The first portion of the letter, which addresses the rule making, was drafted by DOT. I want to make sure, however, that it is legally accurate from the White House perspective.

Please let me know if there are changes you feel should be made. Thank you very much. I am at x62972.

Attn Cheryl H. 11/5

October 27, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL DEICH, STAN HERR AND STEVE SILVERMAN

FROM: Debbie Fine and Mike Lux

SUBJECT: Response to ADAPT Letter

As discussed, attached is the letter sent from ADAPT on the DOT rule on over-the-road buses and the draft response to be submitted to Presidential Correspondence for editing and approval.

Please make comments and/or changes you think appropriate and call Debbie Fine (x62972) with your feedback asap. If possible we would like to get the letter to Correspondence by 12pm Friday, October 28.

Thanks for your help.

Mr. Mike Auburger
National Organizer
ADAPT
12 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80203

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concerning the Americans
with Disabilities Act.

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This administration has included the disability community in the decision making process at every level. We have brought in the national and grassroots leaders for unprecedented numbers of meetings and we have made a record number of appointments of disability leaders to important administration positions.

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Thank you again for your letter. My administration will continue to work closely with you on ~~all~~ matters of concern to the disability community.

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Thanks for your help.

Mr. Mike Auberger
National Organizer
ADAPT
12 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80203

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I also want to underscore ~~that~~ *1 should fast mark* this administration *remains* committed to full implementation of the ADA, so that all Americans have the opportunity to live to the fullest of their ~~God-given~~ abilities. Our record thus far demonstrates this. *COULD BE (AK) READS SUGGEST IMMUTABILITY* We have *on the net* ~~launched~~ *launched* a public service campaign to educate Americans; we have pursued *numerous* ~~hundreds of~~ state and local governments accused of violating the rights of people with disabilities; we have investigated hotels, restaurants, theaters, stores and other public accommodations to achieve greater access. Furthermore, I have fought hard to complete the work of the ADA by passing a comprehensive health care reform bill -- and I will continue that fight. *possibility to get to the point*

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*From the White House South Lawn ~~and~~
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have have given high visibility
and attention to this cause*

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U.S. Department of
TransportationOffice of the Secretary
of Transportation400 Seventh St. SW
Washington, DC 20590

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER

DATE: 27 OCT 94 TIME: 1010 AM

TO: STEVE SILVERMAN

WHITE HOUSE

FAX NO: 456-6704 TELEPHONE: 456-2572

FROM: DAVID IGLESIAS, DOT

202/366-1111 or 366-5459
202/366-7952 (FAX)Number of pages to follow: 2

Comments:

PLS CALL ME IF YOU HAVE
ANY QUESTIONS.

DAVID.

Copy to Michael Lux
Debbie Fine-Job

Deb/mike Here's the draft.
will you add the WH
stuff to it and circulate
let me know what I
need to do.
This looks pretty
good. SBS

Mr. Mike Auberger
National Organizer
ADAPT
12 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203

October 27, 1994

Dear Mr. Auberger:

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White House bullets

Sincerely,

Theresa ad
Theresa

Strong

*all of
the
disability
concerns*

F
A
XCOVER
SHEET

Phone

Fax 512-442-0522

DATE 10/21/94 TIME _____
TOTAL PAGES SENT 3

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING TO:

NAME Michael Lux
FIRM Bob Savigny
PHONE JUSTIN DART
DREDF
NCIL
FROM CCD
COMMENTSACCESS IS A CIVIL RIGHT!
WE WILL RIDE!

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES CALL 512 442-0252

Dega Vn - ALL OVER AGAIN

→ Post
Transportation

October 27, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL DEICH, STAN HERR AND STEVE SILVERMAN

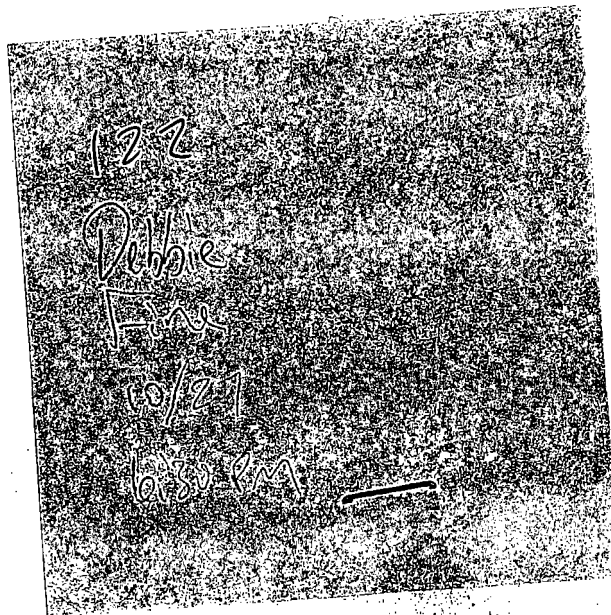
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12 Broadway
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Thanks for your help.

The White House Office of Public Liaison

Alexis M. Herman, Director

Phone (202) 456-2930

Fax (202) 456-6218

Facsimile Transmittal Sheet

Number of Pages (Including Cover) 26

To Dave Lacey

Fax Number 66423

Office Number _____

Date _____

From D. Fine

***** COMMENTS *****

Attached is all relevant
info. ~~Let's~~ Let's discuss.
Call me when you get
a chance if you think
you may get calls.
Thanks.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 31, 1994

Mr. Mike Auburger
National Organizer
ADAPT
12 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Mike:

Thank you for your letter of October 21 concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act.

My Administration remains steadfast in its commitment to full implementation of the ADA. All Americans must have the opportunity to live up to the fullest of their potential. From the White House to the halls of Congress, we have brought high visibility and attention to this cause. We have launched a public service campaign to educate Americans on the act. The Department of Justice has vigorously worked to enforce ADA provisions in state and local governments and in the private sector in hotels, restaurants, theaters, stores, and other public accommodations. I have fought hard to pass comprehensive health care legislation to complete the work of the ADA, and I will continue that fight.

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I fully understand the importance of access to transportation for people with disabilities. Because your letter addresses proposed rules now being drafted by the Department of Transportation, I have forwarded it to Secretary Peña for appropriate action.

My Administration will continue to work closely with you on matters of concern to the disability community. As I work to build a brighter future for all Americans, I appreciate your continuing involvement.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton



ADAPT

FREE OUR PEOPLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 27, 1994

For further information contact
Tari Susan Hartman
310/578-5955 or 202/957-6056

Transportation Secretary Pena Refuses to Take a Position on ADA Violation for Greyhound-Style Over-The-Road Buses - Clinton Asked to Intervene to Avoid Head-On Collision with 20-City Demonstrations by ADAPT

Denver, CO - ADAPT returns to the transportation war as their infamous battle cry We Will Ride will echo in the streets of a 20-city nationwide protest on Tuesday, November 1, in an unprecedented ground swell of outrage. The simultaneous demonstrations will occur in local offices of the Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) and/or Greyhound.

The scenario - President Clinton was given until October 31 to intervene on behalf of Secretary Pena, to avoid a head-on collision with ADAPT. On October 12, Pena met with ADAPT's 12 member national leadership/negotiating team in an effort to divert a 13-city demonstration last month. In that meeting, Pena refused to take action on a position to deny rumors that the Clinton Administration planned to violate transportation provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by dropping accessibility requirements for Over-the-Road Buses from 100% to an outrageous 20%.

Pena, more than other cabinet members, knows Denver-based ADAPT's grass-roots power as the true voice of 49 million Americans with disabilities and should've taken their promise of multi-city protests very seriously. Negotiating in good faith, ADAPT suspended their Sept. 13 demonstrations until after the Oct. 12 meeting. Pena should have known better than to offer false excuses and delay tactic of empty promises. As a result, protests have exploded from 13 to 20 cities. With one week prior to the election, Pena's stalling tactic has obviously backfired and this revolution of disability rights activists could have negative repercussions this close to such a critical election.

ADAPT National Organizer Mike Auberger asserts "The movement won't back down. We warned Pena ground swell disabled Americans' rage can't be contained to 13 cities. The powder keg exploded in 20 cities. For rural disabled Americans, Over-the-Road buses are a health care life-line. 20% accessibility as opposed to ADA-mandated 100%,

- m o r e -

ADAPT vs. PENA/2-2-2**October 27, 1994**

in and of itself, further incarcerates disabled citizens as prisoners in their own homes, as they can't travel to where health care services are delivered. Clinton should come through on campaign promises to enforce ADA, even with his own cabinet members. If the democratic party expects disabled voters on November 8, we'll need to hear from their Commander and Chief by October 31 to divert the inevitable on November 1."

According to ADAPT National Organizer Stephanie Thomas, "Costs for new Over-The-Road-Buses are \$600,000 with a mere additional \$13,000 one-time outlay for costs for the lifts. This 2% increase will insure accessibility in perpetuity, a small investment considering the 20 year life span of the vehicles. For rural Americans with disabilities, Over-The-Road-Buses are the only form of transportation. ADAPT's ADA negotiating team already allowed much leeway, we won't be pushed around any longer. We can't hold back the anger on this hard-won issue. "

Pena ignored ADAPT's August 24 clarification letter that Administration will not buckle to special interests, and re-commit to ADA's 100% accessibility provision for ALL NEW Over-The-Road-Buses. Despite an industry sanctioned study by the Office of Technology Assessment that ALL NEW Over-The-Road-Buses be lift-equipped.

Thomas says, "ADAPT is incensed and won't tolerate this injustice. Over-The-Road-Buses were the only bus system allowed a six to seven year phase-in period, when all others were allowed one month grace period. Over the past 12 years, hundreds of ADAPT activists and their families spend thousands of hours in jails nationwide in their commitment to ADA accessible transportation provisions. Once again, ADAPT activists are prepared to go to jail in 20 cities simultaneously on November 1."

Auberger stated "ADAPT will not allow history to repeat itself: Local transit authorities violated section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 by opting for local options. That injustice spurred creation of ADAPT which has now mushroomed in 37 states, England and Sweden. This is the latest example of the Administration backing away from citizens with disabilities. ADAPT will see to it that citizens with disabilities are no longer blamed and used as flimsy excuses for poor business practices. "

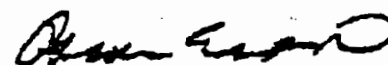
A complete listing of the 20 cities, contacts and targets is on the following pages.

#

-3-

We would also like to meet with you on the issues we have raised here at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Oscar Eason
President-Elect



Dorothy Greening
Executive Vice-President

cc: OPM



ADAPT

FREE OUR PEOPLE

ADAPT vs. DOT, FTA & Greyhound
National Demonstrations - Tuesday, November 1, 1994
Demonstrations Generally Occur Between 11 am & 2 pm
*** Call specific contacts for further details***

ALASKA - Fairbanks contact: David Jacobson	target: Greyhound (907) 474 - 4053
ARIZONA - Phoenix contact: Jill Crawford/Ken Heard	target: FTA (602) 256 - 2245
ARKANSAS - Hot Springs contact: Randy Alexander	target: Greyhound (501) 624 - 7510
CALIFORNIA - San Francisco contact: Mark Beckwith	target: Greyhound (510) 841 - 5203
COLORADO - Denver contact: Mike Auberger	target: FTA (303) 733 - 9324
GEORGIA - Atlanta contact: Mark Johnson	target: DOT (404) 751 - 7490
ILLINOIS - Chicago contact: Larry Biondi	target: DOT (708) 524 - 0600
INDIANA - Indianapolis contact: Nancy Griffin	target: Greyhound (317) 541 - 0611
KANSAS - Kansas City contact: Erin Williams/The Whole Person	target: FTA (816) 753 - 8163
KANSAS - Topeka contact: Mike Oxford	target: DOT (913) 233 - 1561
KENTUCKY - Louisville contact: Ann Sautel & Sue Davis	target: Greyhound (502) 589 - 9661

**ADAPT vs. DOT, FTA & Greyhound
Targets for Nationwide Demonstrations
on Tuesday, November 1, 1994
generally occurring between 11:00 am & 2:00 pm
Page - 2 -**

**MASSACHUSETTS - Boston
contact: Bill Henning**

**target: Greyhound
(508) 775 - 8300**

**MICHIGAN - Detroit
contact: Bob Liston**

**target: Greyhound
(313) 483 - 5582**

**OHIO - Columbus
contact: Brad Kollus**

**target: FTA
(614) 864 - 1992**

**OHIO - Toledo
contact: Mike Eakin**

**target: Greyhound
(419) 882 - 4813**

**PENNSYLVANIA - Philadelphia
contact: Cassie James**

**target: Greyhound
(215) 581 - 0666**

**PENNSYLVANIA - Pittsburgh
contact: Kathleen Kleinman**

**target: Greyhound
(412) 223 - 5119**

**TENNESSEE - Nashville
contact: Diane Coleman**

**target: Greyhound
(615) 248 - 6733**

**TEXAS - Ft. Worth
contact: Bob Kafka/Stephanie Thomas**

**target: DOT
(512) 442 - 0252**

**UTAH - Salt Lake City
contact: Barb Toomer**

**target: DOT
(801) 484 - 9314**

* * * * *



3710 Woodland Drive, Suite 900
Anchorage, AK 99517-2564
Toll Free: (800) 770-4488
(907) 248-4777
Fax: (907) 248-0639

3550 Airport Way, Suite 3
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4772
Toll Free: (800) 777-7940
(907) 479-7940
Fax: (907) 474-4052

✉ FAX TRANSMITTAL ✉

TO: *LaVeta Adams, Beth, Mike, Jeff or Debbie Ford*
FAX PHONE# *(907) 474-4052*
FROM: *Bob Crowder*
FAX PHONE# *(907) 474-4052*
DATE: *November 1, 1994*
PAGES: *2*

NCIL AND ADAPT CALL FOR ACTION OUR RIGHT TO RIDE IN JEOPARDY!!
D.O.T is wavering, and may ROLL BACK ADA accessibility regs that by July 1996, new "over the road buses" for large companies (e.g. Greyhound) must be lift equipped!

SUPPORT THE ADA REGS: NEW BUSES HAVE LIFTS!!

OUR VOICES NEED TO BE HEARD BY:

D.O.T. SECRETARY PENA
CLINTON ADMINISTRATION
REGIONAL DOT OFFICES

JOIN OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS NOVEMBER 1ST:

- * RALLIES AT REGIONAL DOT AND FTA OFFICES
 - * "PHONE INS" TO D.O.T., F.T.A., AND CLINTON ADMINISTRATION
- WANT TO RALLY?!**

CONTACT NAMES & NUMBERS FOR YOUR STATE:

POM

TO: White House ATTN: Mike Lux or Debbie Fine
FROM: Bill Crandall, ACCESS ALASKA, Fairbanks Alaska
DATE: November 1, 1994
SUBJECT: Proposed ADA waiver for "over the road buses"

As a concerned citizen and an advocate for people experiencing disabilities, I encourage you to use your influence to curtail D.O. T.'s waiver request regarding ADA regulations. The waiver is an attempt to exempt new "over the road buses" for large companies (e.g. Greyhound) from being wheelchair lift equipped.

Alaska is served during the summer months by large tour companies (e.g. Holland America Lines (Westours, Princess Tours and others). At present only one of their coaches are lift equipped. The majority of tourist that travel are the elderly. Because of the age of these people, many have limited mobility or are disabled in some way or another. They require special consideration of having accessible transportation. Over the road buses should have been required to be accessible earlier rather than later by the time table set by The Americans with Disabilities Act.

Thank you for your time.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 31, 1994

Mr. Mike Auburger
National Organizer
ADAPT
12 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Mike:

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I fully understand the importance of access to transportation for people with disabilities. Because your letter addresses proposed rules now being drafted by the Department of Transportation, I have forwarded it to Secretary Peña for appropriate action.

My Administration will continue to work closely with you on matters of concern to the disability community. As I work to build a brighter future for all Americans, I appreciate your continuing involvement.

Sincerely, ¹

Bill Clinton

F
A
XCOVER
SHEET201 S. CHEROKEE ST.
Denver, CO 80223Phone 303-733-9324
Fax 303-733-6211DATE 11/01 TIME
TOTAL PAGES SENT

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING TO:

NAME Debbie PinnerFIRM PHONE FAX FROM MikeCOMMENTS

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES CALL (303) 733-9324

**TO: White House Staff
Mike Lux
Debbie Fine**

**FROM: Sharon Bell
Independent Living Specialist
Access Alaska
3550 Airport Way #3
Fairbanks, AK 99709**

RE: ADA Regs

DATE: November 1, 1994

Please support the ADA Regs concerning lifts on new busses. An amendment at this time would be unfair to those companies who have already complied.



3710 Woodland Drive, Suite 900
Anchorage, AK 99517-2564
Toll Free: (800) 478-4488
(907) 248-4777
Fax: (907) 248-0639

3550 Airport Way, Suite 3
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4772
(907) 479-7940
Fax: (907) 474-4052

FAX TRANSMITTAL

TO: Mike Lux or Debbie Fine

FAX PHONE #: 1-202-456-2806

FROM: John Wickham

FAX PHONE#: (907) 474-4052

DATE: 11/01/94

PAGES: 1

TIME: 11:40 AST

COMMENTS: We are concerned about any possibility
that ADA accessibility regulation be amended.

Under current ADA regulation - new
buses must have WC lifts.

Please respect the ADA law and
allow public transportation to be equally
accessible to all people!

Thank you.