

That's why we're pursuing an all-of-the-above strategy. We're producing more biofuels, more fuel-efficient cars, more solar power, more wind power. This week, I was in Boulder City, Nevada, where they've got the largest solar plant of its kind anywhere in the country—that's the future. I was at Ohio State University, where they've developed the fastest electric car in the world—that's the future. I don't want to cede these clean energy industries to China or Germany or some other country. I want to see solar panels and wind turbines and fuel-efficient cars manufactured right here, in America, by American workers.

Now, getting these clean energy industries to locate here requires us to maintain a national commitment to new research and development, but it also requires us to build world-class transportation and communications networks, so that any company can move goods and sell products all around the world as quickly and efficiently as possible. So much of America needs to be rebuilt right now. We've got crumbling roads and bridges, a power grid that wastes too much energy, an incomplete high-speed broadband network. And we've got thousands of unemployed construction workers who've been looking for a job ever since the housing market collapsed.

But once again, we're waiting on Congress. You see, in a matter of days, funding will stop for all sorts of transportation projects. Construction sites will go idle, workers will have to go home, and our economy will take a hit.

This Congress cannot let that happen, not at a time when we should be doing everything in our power—Democrats and Republicans—to keep this recovery moving forward. The Senate did their part. They passed a bipartisan transportation bill. It had the support of 52 Democrats and 22 Republicans. Now it's up to the

House to follow suit: to put aside partisan posturing, end the gridlock, and do what's right for the American people.

This is common sense. Right now, all across this country, we've got contractors and construction workers who've never been more eager to get back on the job. A long-term transportation bill would put them to work. And those are good jobs. We just released a report that shows nearly 90 percent of the construction, manufacturing, and trade jobs created through investments in transportation projects are middle class jobs. Those are exactly the jobs we need right now, and it will make the economy stronger for everybody.

We've done this before. During the Great Depression, America built the Hoover Dam and the Golden Gate Bridge. After World War II, we connected our States with a system of highways. Democratic and Republican administrations invested in great projects that benefited everybody, from the workers who actually built them to the businesses that still use them today.

So tell Congress that if we invest in new technology and new energy, in new roads and bridges and construction projects, we can keep growing our economy, put our people back to work, and remind the world why the United States is the greatest nation on Earth.

Thanks, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 4:40 p.m. on March 23 in the State Dining Room at the White House for broadcast on March 24. In the address, the President referred to S. 1813. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 23, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on March 24.

Remarks to United States Military Personnel at Camp Bonifas, South Korea *March 25, 2012*

It's good to see you. Thank you.

Well, listen, I'm not going to give a long speech, because I just want to make sure that I get a chance to shake everybody's hands. I just

want to point out that I was just presented this spiffy jacket. And so whoever arranged to make sure that it fit—I'm sure it wasn't the General—I appreciate it. [*Laughter*]

But as I told General Thurman and your commander here, you guys are the—at freedom's frontier. When you think about the transformation that has taken place in South Korea during my lifetime, it is directly attributed to this long line of soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, coastguardsmen who were willing to create the space and the opportunity for freedom and prosperity. And the contrast between South Korea and North Korea could not be clearer, could not be starker, both in terms of freedom, but also in terms of prosperity.

And the reason that the South is doing so well is obviously attributable to the incredible resilience of their people and their incredible talents and hard work, but it also has to do with you guys. And so my main message is the same obviously to every base that I go to all across—all around the world, which is, I could not be prouder of what you're doing. Everybody back home could not be prouder of what you guys do each and every day: the dedication, the professionalism that you show. But there's something about this spot in particular, where there's such a clear line and there's such an obvious impact that you have for the good each and every day that should make all of you proud.

And I'll just share with you real briefly, last time I was here, I was having lunch with the President of South Korea, President Lee. And he talked about how he was a small child when

the Korean war was taking place and its aftermath, and the brutal poverty, the fact that they had nothing. And he went on to be a auto executive and ultimately the President of his country and watch it grow. And he specifically said to me—and this was a private moment, he didn't say this in front of the press, so you knew he meant it—he said, the only reason that was able to happen—and I still think back to all those American soldiers and the sacrifices that they made.

That's the legacy you're carrying on here. So we're grateful to you. We're proud of you. And I hope that all your family back home knows how proud your Commander in Chief is of you.

And the only other thing I'll say is, for those of you guys who missed the ball games—*[laughter]*—Florida got beat by Louisville, and Ohio State just beat Syracuse. So I don't know how your brackets are doing. *[Laughter]*

But anyway, thank you, God bless you, and let me just shake some hands and take some pictures. All right.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:26 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. James D. Thurman, USA, commander, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, U.S. Forces Korea; and Col. Patrick McKenzie, USAF, commander, 51st Fighter Wing.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey in Seoul, South Korea March 25, 2012

President Obama. I just want to say how much I appreciate the opportunity to once again meet with my friend and colleague, Prime Minister Erdogan. I think it's fair to say that over the last several years, the relationship between Turkey and the United States has continued to grow across every dimension. And I find Prime Minister Erdogan to be an outstanding partner and an outstanding friend on a wide range of issues.

We devoted a lot of this meeting to the issue of Syria, where the United States and Turkey have worked with a broad-based coalition: an international coalition of countries in the region, as well as around the world, who deeply object to the killings that have been taking place in Syria and are absolutely committed to trying to help those innocent civilians who are being killed by the Asad regime. And we are very much in agreement that there should be a process whereby a transition to a representa-