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**December 21, 1999**

**PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE Clean Air: A Record of  
Accomplishment December 21, 1999**

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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Clean Air: A Record of Accomplishment  
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Since 1993, the number of Americans whose communities meet federal air quality standards has grown by 43 million. To continue this progress, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have launched major clean air initiatives, including tough new smog and soot standards that will protect the health of 125 million Americans, including 35 million children. The Clinton Administration's clean air achievements include:

Making cars and fuels cleaner. Announced the toughest standards ever for reducing harmful air pollution from auto tailpipes - an action that will make new cars 77 to 95 percent cleaner than current standards. The new rule means cleaner, healthier air for everyone as 50 million tons of smog-causing air pollution will be removed from the air over the next few decades.

The new standards for the first time ensure that SUV's, mini-vans and light-duty trucks meet the same low levels of tailpipe emissions

as  
other passenger cars.

The action also significantly reduces sulfur levels, and for the first time treats cleaner gasoline and cleaner cars as a single system for achieving cleaner air.

Cutting emissions from power plants. Took unprecedented action to reduce smog-causing pollutants from large power plants and industrial sources at 392 facilities by requiring that emissions of harmful nitrogen oxides be cut by almost half.

These reductions will mean healthier air for 100 million Americans, both in communities near the plants and in communities hundreds of miles away who are affected by the transport of air pollution across their states' borders.

This action responds to petitions filed under the Clean Air Act by Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

Fighting for tougher clean-air standards. Approved strong new clean air standards for soot and smog that will prevent up to 15,000 premature deaths a year and improve the lives of millions of Americans who suffer from respiratory illnesses. These standards have been delayed by litigation. The Administration is pursuing this case in court.

Cleaning skies over national parks. Announced new federal efforts to improve air quality in our national parks and wilderness areas. The new "regional haze" plan aims to restore pristine skies and unspoiled views at the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Acadia and the Great Smoky Mountains national parks and other natural treasures that draw 290 million visitors a year.

The plan addresses air pollution from power plants, cars and