THE WHITE HOUSE

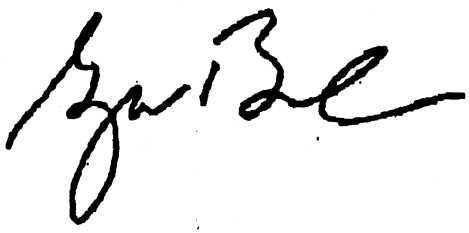
WASHINGTON

Crawford, Texas

April 5, 2002

I am pleased to send greetings to those celebrating National Environmental Crime Prevention Week, April 7-13.

For the good of our citizens and our environment, individuals, communities, and environmental enforcement professionals must work together to stop environmental criminal activity. This serious and dangerous problem assaults human health and degrades the quality of our environment. It also places an enormous burden on government and our citizens through remediation costs and the loss of our precious natural resources. My Administration is working with States, tribes, and local communities to protect the environment, ensure compliance with our environmental laws, and take enforcement against criminal violators.

This year marks the annual observance of the first National Environmental Crime Prevention Week. Its theme, "Learn the Signs of Environmental Crime," encourages individuals to become familiar with the types of activities which may indicate that environmental crimes are being committed. In addition, the event encourages government enforcement personnel to increase their knowledge of environmental crime enforcement techniques and to become familiar with agencies in their jurisdiction that are responsible for enforcement. By working together to protect our communities and to bring violators to justice, we help ensure the well-being of our citizens and the future of our environment.

Best wishes for a successful and memorable observance.