



January 13, 2004

**Remarks for Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham
US-China Green Olympic Protocol Signing Ceremony
Beijing, China, January 12, 2004**

Remarks by Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham

It is my great pleasure to be here today and to sign the Green Olympic Protocol with Minister XU and Vice Mayor FAN.

Minister XU, it has been more than one year since we met in Washington, DC. I am very glad to have the opportunity to come to Beijing this time and to pay a visit to both of you. Beijing is a fabulous city. Although my stay is very short, I am enjoying every moment of it.

Sixteen months ago, my Assistant Secretary, Vicky Bailey, and former Vice Mayor Madame Lin signed a Statement of Intent on Green Olympics cooperation to promote the use of clean energy technologies as well as to provide technical assistance in energy and environmental policy and planning for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

Since then, we have established 11 teams from both sides to work on energy, air quality, severe weather forecast, water quality, and transportation. The Department of Energy has taken the lead to coordinate with other U.S. Government agencies to form an interagency team to work with China on those issues. We also held two successful Joint Working Group Meetings in Beijing in 2002 and 2003, and have developed proposals for further cooperation.

Today we take another big step with the signing of the Green Olympic Protocol, which will transform the Statement of Intent we signed into a legally binding international agreement.

A few moments ago, I had the opportunity to join Minister Xu for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for this new building. It demonstrates how the U.S. and China – both our governments and private sectors – can work together to promote clean energy solutions. I hope that this first Energy Efficient demonstration project in Beijing will lead to more widespread use of clean energy technologies in Beijing, particularly for the 2008 Olympic Games, and throughout China.

The United States and China face similar challenges and exciting opportunities in the energy sector. We are the two largest energy consumers in the world and energy security and environment protection are important priorities for both countries.

We have had a good and long-standing cooperation on energy and the environment between our two countries. I hope that through this Protocol, we will further deepen our joint efforts to improve Beijing's air quality and environment. We look forward to continuing this cooperation in the future. I wish you a successful Olympic Games in 2008.

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