

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 20, 1993

I am delighted to send my best wishes to the participants of the 1993 National Metric Conference, "Metrication '93," and its cosponsors, the U.S. Metric Association, the American National Metric Council, and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology.

International trade is becoming increasingly competitive. To improve our balance of trade and to succeed in the international marketplace, America must produce goods and services that fit the needs and quality requirements of other nations. Since the metric system is the world standard of measurement, more and more nations are demanding metric products. All developed nations except the United States use the metric system, and it is clear that our country will benefit by encouraging voluntary metric use by industry. These efforts can enhance America's competitive edge and help create new jobs and opportunities for our people.

I want to commend the sponsors of this conference for helping America move forward in metric use. Government commitment to metric conversion in federal programs is already accelerating the transition to the use of metric units, and your efforts hold great promise for further strengthening private sector competitiveness and for stimulating economic growth for the entire nation.

Best wishes for a productive conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.