

**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**WASHINGTON**

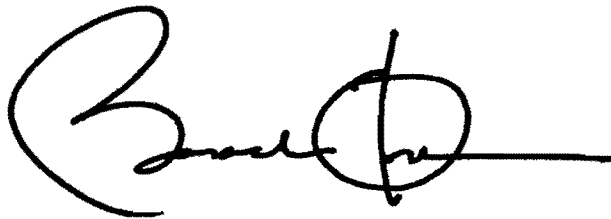
June 15, 2011

I send greetings to the international community wintering in Antarctica.

Just 100 years ago, the first intrepid explorers arrived at the South Pole. Their harrowing journey challenged both body and spirit as they reached for the world's horizon. Confronted with a harsh environment and an unforgiving terrain, these individuals courageously pressed forward to reveal the secrets of one of earth's last frontiers.

Today, like those pioneers a century ago, we confront a great challenge. The dangers posed by climate change threaten every nation on earth and will determine what kind of world our children will inherit. To protect our planet, we must better understand the role of the polar regions in earth's climate system and how polar ecosystems are responding to variations in climate and greenhouse gases. Researchers working in Antarctica are at the forefront of understanding what these changes will mean for our ecosystems and for future generations.

As you mark Midwinter's Day in Antarctica, I commend you on your commitment to discovery and innovation. I encourage you to continue to use your talent and dedication to make the world better for us all, and I thank you for a job well done.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned at the bottom center of the page.