

August 31, 2005

The Honorable William H. Frist, M.D.
Senate Majority Leader
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

We, the undersigned, urge the Senate to expeditiously provide advice and consent for United States accession to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. We agree with President Bush that accession to the Convention supports vital U.S. national security, economic, and international leadership interests, and that rapid Senate approval is needed.

The Convention has been thoroughly reviewed in Senate hearings and public forums, and has overwhelming support from a broad coalition that has carefully considered the issues from a variety of perspectives.

The Convention codifies and strengthens freedoms of navigation and overflight essential to U.S. military mobility. The Navy and Coast Guard have testified that joining the Convention will strengthen our ability to defend these and other important maritime rights, and will enhance our national and homeland security efforts.

All major U.S. ocean industries, including offshore energy, maritime transportation and commerce, fishing, and shipbuilding support U.S. accession to the Convention because its provisions help protect vital U.S. economic interests and provide the certainty and stability crucial for investment in global maritime enterprises.

Environmental organizations also strongly support the Convention. As a party, the U.S. would be in the best position to lead future applications of this framework for regional and international cooperation in protecting and preserving the marine environment.

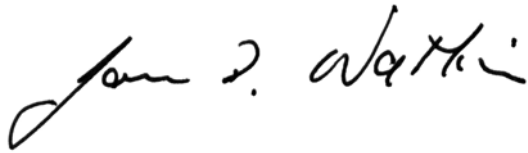
The congressionally mandated and Presidentially appointed U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the privately funded Pew Oceans Commission both unanimously recommend accession to the Law of the Sea Convention as an important part of a comprehensive and coordinated U.S. ocean policy.

Currently, 148 nations are party to the Law of the Sea Convention, including every major industrial nation except the United States. U.S. accession to the Convention would send a clear message in support of our efforts to foster international approaches, while significantly furthering our own national interests. The importance of U.S. accession was reinforced during

the recent confirmation hearing for Dr. Rice where she stated that “. . . the Convention as it now stands serves our national security interests, [and] our economic interests,” and urged favorable consideration by the Senate “as soon as possible.”

The Senate should move expeditiously to consider and approve accession to the Law of the Sea Convention.

Sincerely,



James D. Watkins
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Chair, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy



Leon E. Panetta
Chair, Pew Oceans Commission



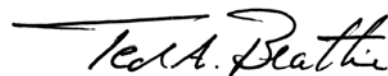
Ambassador David M. Abshire
President, Center for the Study of the Presidency



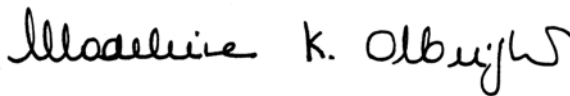
Robert D. Ballard
Professor, Graduate School of Oceanography,
University of Rhode Island



John Adams
President, Natural Resources Defense Council



Ted A. Beattie
President and CEO, John G. Shedd Aquarium



Madeleine K. Albright
Former Secretary of State



Lillian C. Borrone
Former Assistant Executive Director,
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey



James A. Baker III
Former Secretary of State
Senior Partner, Baker Botts, LLP



Senator John B. Breau
Senior Counsel, Patton Boggs LLP



David G. Burney
Executive Director, U.S. Tuna Foundation



Joseph J. Cox
President and CEO,
Chamber of Shipping of America



David D. Caron
Program Director, Law of the Sea Institute,
University of California, Berkeley



Walter Cronkite
CBS



Red Cavaney
President and CEO,
American Petroleum Institute



Admiral William J. Crowe, Jr.
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Chairman, Advisory Board, Global Options, Inc.



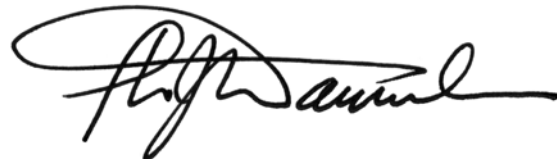
Clarence P. Cazalot, Jr.
President and CEO, Marathon Oil Corporation



Ann D'Amato
Chief of Staff, Office of City Attorney,
Los Angeles



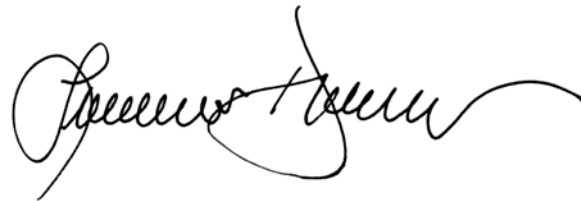
Eileen Claussen
President and Chair of the Board,
Pew Center on Global Climate Change



Thomas Dammrich
President,
National Marine Manufacturers Association



James M. Coleman
Professor, Coastal Studies Institute,
Louisiana State University



Lawrence R. Dickerson
President and COO,
Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc.



Donald L. Evans
Former Secretary of Commerce



Governor Christine Gregoire
State of Washington



Thomas Fry
President,
National Ocean Industries Association



Carlotta A. Leon Guerrero
Executive Director, Ayuda Foundation,
Micronesia Medical Missions



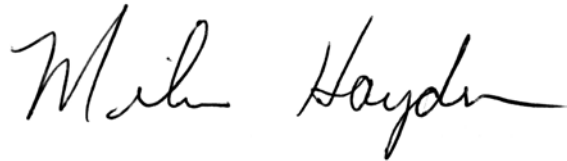
Paul G. Gaffney II
President, Monmouth University



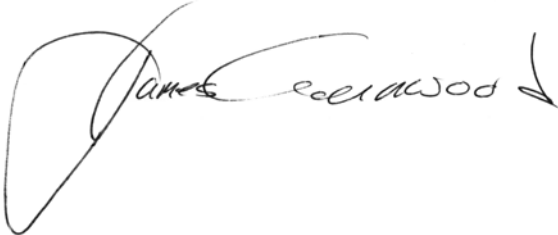
Representative Lee Hamilton
President and Director, Woodrow Wilson
International Center for Scholars



Robert B. Gagosian
President and Director, Woods Hole
Oceanographic Institution



Mike Hayden
Secretary, Kansas Department of
Wildlife and Parks



Representative James C. Greenwood
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Marc J. Hershman
Professor, School of Marine Affairs,
University of Washington



Tony Knowles
Former Governor of Alaska



Carla A. Hills
Former U.S. Trade Representative,
Chairman and CEO, Hills & Company



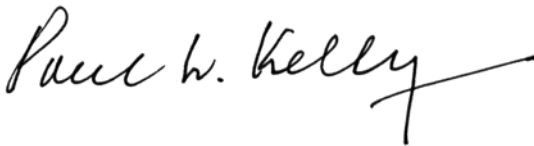
Christopher L. Koch
President and CEO, World Shipping Council



Senator Ernest F. Hollings
Hollings Cancer Center



Governor Ted Kulongoski
State of Oregon



Paul L. Kelly
Senior Vice President, Rowan Companies, Inc.



Governor Linda Lingle
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Charles F. Kennel
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Robert C. McFarlane
Former National Security Advisor
Chairman, Energy and Communications
Solutions LLC




John Norton Moore
Director, Center for Oceans Law and Policy,
University of Virginia School of Law



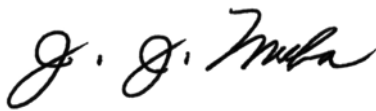
Julie Packard
Executive Director, Monterey Bay Aquarium



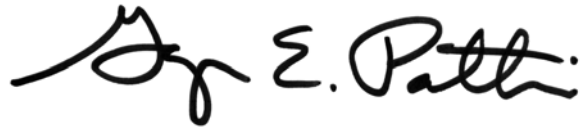
Frank E. Muller-Karger
Professor, College of Marine Science,
University of South Florida



Pietro Parravano
President, Institute for Fisheries Resources



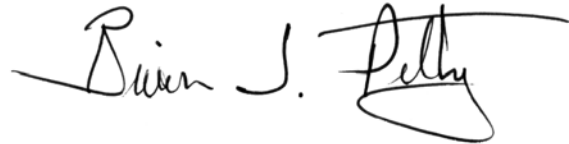
James J. Mulva
Chairman and CEO, ConocoPhillips



Governor George E. Pataki
State of New York



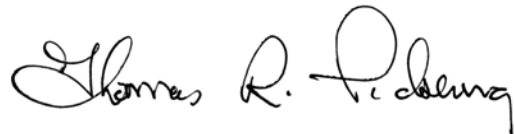
George B. Newton, Jr.
Chairman, U.S. Arctic Research Commission



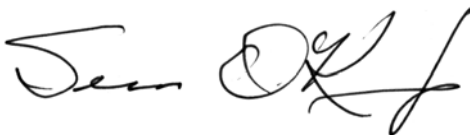
Brian T. Petty
Senior Vice President,
International Association of Drilling Contractors



Senator Sam Nunn
Co-Chairman and CEO,
The Nuclear Threat Initiative



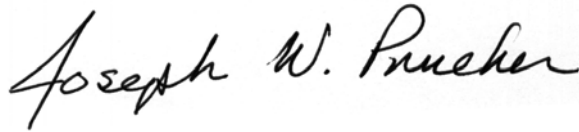
Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering
Former Under Secretary for Political Affairs,
U.S. Department of State



Sean O'Keefe
Former NASA Administrator,
Chancellor, Louisiana State University



Colin Powell
Former Secretary of State



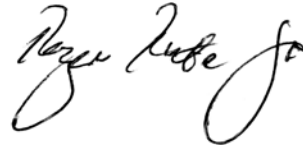
Joseph W. Prueher
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)



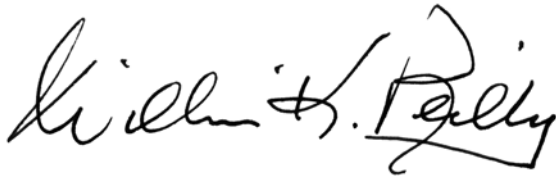
William D. Ruckelshaus
Strategic Director, Madrona Venture Group



Edward B. Rasmuson
Chairman of the Statewide Advisory Board,
Wells Fargo Bank



Roger T. Rufe, Jr.
President, The Ocean Conservancy



William K. Reilly
Former EPA Administrator,
Chairman, World Wildlife Fund



Barry Russell
President,
Independent Petroleum Association of America



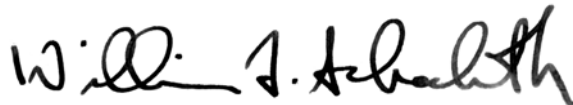
Joseph P. Riley, Jr.
Mayor of Charleston, South Carolina



Paul A. Sandifer
Senior Scientist, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration



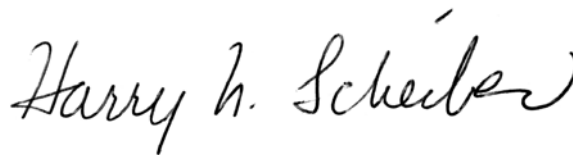
David Rockefeller, Jr.
Vice Chair, National Park Foundation



William L. Schachte, Jr.
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)



Andrew A. Rosenberg
Professor, Department of Natural Resources and
Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans and Space
University of New Hampshire



Harry N. Scheiber
Co-Director, Law of the Sea Institute,
University of California, Berkeley



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State of California



Governor Togiola Tulafono
U.S. Territory of American Samoa



Kathryn Sullivan
President and CEO,
Center of Science and Industry



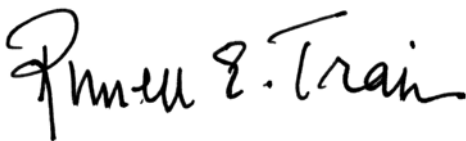
Marilyn Ware
Chairman Emeritus, American Water



Strobe Talbott



Richard D. West
President, Consortium for Oceanographic
Research and Education



Russell E. Train
Chairman Emeritus, World Wildlife Fund



Patten D. White
CEO, Maine Lobstermen's Association

cc: President George W. Bush
Vice-President Richard B. Cheney
Secretary Condoleezza Rice
Senator Harry M. Reid
Senator Richard G. Lugar
Senator Joseph R. Biden