

COALITION FOR LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION

April 8, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

As members of a broad coalition of business, environment, legal, and academic leaders with a vested interest in the welfare and safety of our nation, we are writing to request your personal leadership to urge Senate approval of U.S. accession to the Law of the Sea Convention.

We welcomed your statement of May 15, 2007 in which you asserted that accession to the Convention is essential to protect national security interests, develop maritime resources, secure sovereign rights over extensive resource jurisdiction, and promote U.S. interests in the environmental health of the oceans.

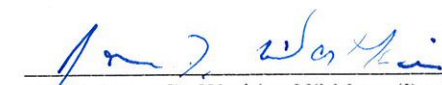
On that day, we believed that ratification of this important Convention was no longer a question of "if" but a matter of "when" this treaty would be on your desk to receive your signature. However, despite extensive and exhaustive review and analysis of the Convention by this and prior Administrations, as well as nonfederal legal, military, national security, industry and environmental experts; efforts by opponents threaten to delay or derail Senate consideration.


Time is of the essence. U.S. participation in the Convention is vital and our interests are being jeopardized by not having a seat at the negotiating table. The need for the certainty and stability provided by the Convention is crucial for investment in global maritime enterprises, while also providing a legal framework that will enhance our national security and protect the health of our global oceans.

Mr. President, members of the Coalition are committed to working with your Administration to secure U.S. accession to the Convention. However, major treaties have historically achieved ratification only after passionate and personal advocacy by the President. In addition to the best efforts of senior members of your Administration, this matter now requires your personal commitment and forceful leadership.


We look forward to helping make U.S. accession to the Convention a legacy of your Administration.

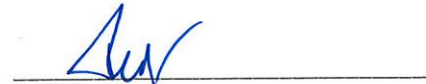
Sincerely,



ADM. James D. Watkins US Navy (Ret.)
Co-Chair
Joint Ocean Commission Initiative

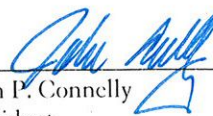

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Co-Chair
Joint Ocean Commission Initiative


Joseph J. Cox
President & CEO
Chamber of Shipping of America


R. Bruce Josten
Executive Vice President
U.S. Chamber of Commerce


Red Cavaney
President & CEO
American Petroleum Institute


John Norton Moore
Director, Center for Oceans Law and Policy
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John P. Connelly
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