

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 31, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

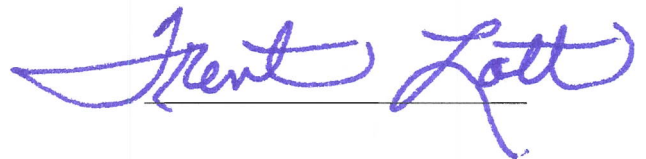
As you know, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) has been considering the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Some press reports have suggested that you may bring the resolution of ratification for this treaty to the Senate for a vote within the next few weeks. We write to you, as the elected leadership of the Senate Republican Conference, to urge you not to bring this treaty forward until the Senate has conducted a more thorough and rigorous examination of the treaty.

The SFRC has held two hearings on UNCLOS with a total of ten listed witnesses. Eight of those witnesses were supporters of the treaty and only two were opposed. No other hearings in any other committee have been held in this session of Congress. With such a complex treaty and so many new members of the Senate who have not had the opportunity to study it, the Senate's advice and consent process would be greatly marginalized if this treaty were approved based solely on the present record.

The UNCLOS has many broad ranging provisions that span the jurisdiction of numerous committees in the Senate. In fact, there are few committees of the Senate whose jurisdiction is not implicated given the expansive scope of the UNCLOS. Before this treaty is brought to the Senate floor, we believe it is vital that other committees hold hearings to investigate matters within their purview.

The Republican leadership in the Senate respectfully requests that you carefully protect the prerogatives of the Senate. We stand ready to work with you and assist you in ensuring that the Senate fulfills its responsibility for treaty consideration under the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mitch McConnell in black ink, written over a horizontal line.Handwritten signature of Trent Lott in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Tom Kuhl

Fay Bailey Hutchison

John Cornyn

John Eisner