



Coalition to Preserve American Sovereignty

18 January, 2008

Senator John McCain
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCain:

We are writing to request clarification of your stand on Senate ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), also known as the Law of the Sea Treaty.

In 2003, you submitted written testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee expressing unqualified support for the treaty. A copy of your testimony is available at <http://www.oceanlaw.org/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=64>

However, during an October 25, 2007, exchange with conservative bloggers, you said you wanted to see “some changes” to the treaty and would “probably” vote against it. You declared, “I’m just too concerned about the aspect of United States sovereignty being handed over to some international organization,” an apparent reference to the International Seabed Authority (ISA) or one of the other international bodies associated with UNCLOS. The transcript of your comments with the bloggers can be found at <http://robertbluey.com/blog/2007/10/25/mccain-would-oppose-law-of-the-sea-treaty/>

A website subsequently posted a letter, dated November 14, 2007, that you sent to an Arizona constituent, declaring your support of the treaty but acknowledging you were aware of objections to it. This letter was posted at <http://seeingredaz.wordpress.com/2007/11/15/more-straight-talk-from-john-mccain/>

As representatives of a coalition of dozens of groups opposed to UNCLOS, we would like to know if you will vote against the treaty on the Senate floor. If so, will you sign the Senate letter that is now circulating among your colleagues asking President Bush to withdraw it from Senate consideration?

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1901 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW • Suite 201 • Washington, DC 20006

Since the treaty could come up for a Senate vote at any time, we respectfully request that you clarify these matters at your earliest possible convenience.

Sincerely Yours,

Phyllis Schlafly
Wendy Wright
Kevin L. Kearns
Dean Mathew Staver
Jim Boulet, Jr.
Frank J. Gaffney, Jr.
Colin A. Hanna
Michael Ostrolenk
Ken Blackwell
C. Preston Noell III
Cliff Kincaid
Steve Baldwin
Jim Chmelik
Jack Wheeler
Mark Williamson
Leon E. Donahue
Michael Coffman
Joe Eldred
David Ridenour
Carol W. LaGrasse
C.J. Williams
Dr. William Greene
Dane vonBreichenruchardt

Eagle Forum
Concerned Women for America
U.S. Business & Industry Council
Liberty University School of Law
English First
Center for Security Policy
Let Freedom Ring, Inc.
American Conservative Defense Alliance
Coalition for a Conservative Majority
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.
America's Survival
Council for National Policy Action, Inc.
Idaho County Farm Bureau
Freedom Research Foundation
Federal Intercessors
Washingtonians for Immigration Reform
Sovereignty International
Constitution Party of New York
National Center for Public Policy Research*
Property Rights Foundation of America
U.P. Patriots – Upper Peninsula of Michigan
RightMarch.com
U.S. Bill of Rights Foundation

*For identification purposes only.