



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

26 June 2007

The Honorable Joseph Biden, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on Foreign
Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6225

Dear Mr. Chairman,

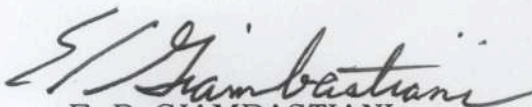
As the world's preeminent maritime power, leader in the War on Terrorism, and Nation with the largest exclusive economic zone, the United States should accede to the Law of the Sea Convention during this session of Congress. No country has a greater interest in public order for the world's oceans. Becoming a Party to the Convention will ensure our leadership role in the continuing development of oceans law and policy.

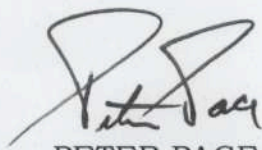
The Convention codifies navigation and overflight rights and high seas freedoms that are essential for the global mobility of our Armed Forces. It furthers our National Security Strategy, strengthens the coalition, and supports the President's Proliferation Security Initiative.

From sustaining forward deployed military forces, to ensuring the security of our ports and waters as well as advancing our most important economic and foreign policy objectives, it is important that the United States become a Party to the Convention.

In closing, we offer our gratitude for your efforts and those of Senator Lugar to bring this important Convention to the Senate for consideration.

Very Respectfully,


E. P. GIAMBASTIANI
Admiral, U.S. Navy
Vice Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff


PETER PACE
General, United States Marine Corps
Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff