



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

April 26, 2005

The Honorable William H. Frist, M.D.
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Frist,

I am writing to request the U.S. Senate move expeditiously to support the accession of the United States to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (LOS). I agree with President Bush and the vast number of supporters from government, industry, academia, and non-governmental organizations that believe accession to LOS supports vital U.S. national security, economic, and international leadership interests. I believe that rapid Senate approval is needed. I also agree with the strong recommendations of both the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission for the U.S. to ratify this important treaty.

The LOS treaty emphasizes the need to conserve living marine resources and to study, protect, and preserve the marine environment. It provides a legal framework to address pollution from a variety of sources, including pollution from vessels and offshore dumping. In testimony before the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, U.S. representatives to the Intergovernmental Maritime Organization confirmed that ratification of this treaty will enhance their ability to negotiate U.S. positions, such as the successful California proposal to locate international shipping lanes farther off our shores to reduce oil spill risk. Freedom of navigation under the law will strengthen the ability of California's ports and shipping interests to build international trade. Moreover, it will help guarantee the international mobility of the U.S. military that is essential to our national security.

California is committed to taking bold new steps to protect and manage our ocean and coastal resources. I have expressed my support for the U.S. ratification of the LOS in my comments on the preliminary report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, in my ocean action plan for California, and in my comments to the President's Council of Environmental Quality on national ocean policy. In addition, my Secretary for Resources, Mike Chrisman, has met in Washington with members of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, NOAA leadership, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Coastal States Organization, and members of Congress to urge



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support for improved ocean and coastal management measures, including the ratification of this treaty.

I, therefore, urge the U.S. Senate hold hearings and support the U.S. ratification of this treaty, joining the 148 nations who have already done so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger", written in a cursive style.

Arnold Schwarzenegger