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The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works
Senate Building Dirksen 410
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member, Committee on Environment and Public Works
Senate Building Dirksen 410
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe,

As a new member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I write to request that the committee hold hearings on the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, which the President is currently advocating for ratification.

While the Law of the Sea Convention falls primarily within the jurisdiction of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, it contains multiple and significant provisions relating to protection of the marine environment and the control, reduction, and elimination of pollution, including atmospheric and land-based pollution. These provisions, if the Convention is ratified by the U.S. Senate, could potentially alter current U.S. domestic environmental law and public policy, an area within the expertise of the Environment and Public Works Committee.

I understand that the committee held hearings on the Law of the Sea Convention during the 108th Congress. I respectfully request that the committee again hold hearings on the Convention, with testimony from experts on both sides of the issue, so that the new members of the committee have the opportunity to examine this Convention and its consequences.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

David Vitter
United States Senate

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