August 29, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I write on behalf of the Board of Directors and the more than 360,000 members of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the nation's largest association of uniformed officers. Although we are an Association of officers and their surviving spouses, we represent the interests of all men and women in uniform, as well as those of their families and survivors, through our dedication to maintaining a strong national defense. It is in this capacity that I write to urge you to complete favorable Committee action on the Law of the Sea Convention and to bring it to the full Senate for consideration and accession.

MOAA joins many others — organizations and individuals alike — who recognize the critical national-defense implications that are addressed by the Convention. With our Armed Forces now under inordinate stress and facing greatly increased operational tempo, United States accession to the Convention will support our maritime strategy today, and will well serve our military and economic interests in the future.

We very much appreciate your tireless efforts, and those of Ranking Member Senator Lugar, in bringing this important decision to the Senate for its favorable consideration, which MOAA strongly endorses.

Sincerely,

Michael P.C. Carns
General, U.S. Air Force, Retired
Chairman of the Board

cc: Sen Lugar