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September 13, 2007

The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stevens and Senator Murkowski:

It is my understanding that the U.S. Senate may consider the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in the fall. With this in mind, I am writing to express my strong support for Senate ratification of the convention. In my opinion, the convention would be beneficial to the U.S. and Alaska in various ways, but I want to focus on one aspect in this correspondence.

As you know, several Arctic nations have recently asserted claims to submerged lands off their coasts. The Convention on the Law of the Sea establishes the framework for these assertions. To date, 155 nations, including Canada and Russia, have approved the convention. If the U.S. does not ratify the convention, the opportunity to pursue our own claims to offshore areas in the Arctic Ocean might well be lost.

As a consequence, our rightful claims to hydrocarbons, minerals, and other natural resources could be ignored. In this regard, geologists have prognosticated that billions of barrels of crude oil and vast quantities of natural gas, not to mention various hard rock minerals, might be present in the Arctic. In the absence of affirmative action by the Senate, these resources could become the property of nations with less valid claims.

It is my understanding that the Bush administration and many senators, both republicans and democrats, have expressed support for Senate ratification of the

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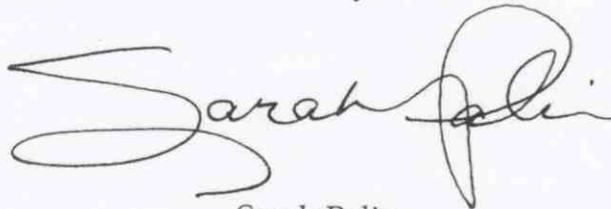
convention. However, as you know, ratification has been thwarted by a small group of senators who are concerned about the perceived loss of U.S. sovereignty. I believe that quite the contrary is the case. If the U.S. does not ratify the convention, we will be denied access to the forum established by the international community to adjudicate claims to submerged lands in the Arctic.

I also urge Congress to authorize the programs and funds necessary for the U.S. to assert its sovereign rights. The assertion of such rights requires significant research and information gathering. Other Arctic nations have recently begun this process, and I understand that the U.S. is moving in this direction as well.

I believe that you have previously supported Senate ratification of the convention. With this letter, I want to put my administration on record in support of the convention as the predicate for asserting sovereign rights that will be of benefit to Alaska and the nation. Hopefully, this letter will assist you in articulating Alaska's position to your colleagues in the Senate.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Palin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "S" at the beginning and a distinct "P" at the end.

Sarah Palin
Governor