

The Hon. Julie Bishop MP
Parliament House
Canberra 2600 ACT

Timor Sea Treaty
Submission No: 71
J.W. Peter

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Dear Representative Bishop,

We realize that you have many urgent issues on your agenda, but we would like to bring to your attention the growing international concern about the terms and conditions of the Timor Sea Treaty that has been negotiated with the newly independent government of East Timor. When questions arose about the national boundaries on the seabed in the area of the Timor Gap, Australia's withdrawal from the dispute mechanisms of the ICJ and UNCLOS put Australia's international reputation again at risk.

While an economically successful East Timor is in Australia's interests, it would appear that Australia is intent on gaining an unfaire share of the benefits ^{of} petroleum development, especially in the 'Greater Sunrise' area. While the Timor Sea Treaty should be ratified, the process should also include a real commitment on the part of Australia, consistent with Article 11, to train and optimize employment opportunities for East Timorese, and the issue of permanent boundaries should be submitted to the dispute settlement procedures of the ICJ and UNCLOS within a maximum of 5 years.

We urge you to ensure that ratification of the Timor Sea Treaty is accompanied by public and transparent commitments on the part of the government to honor the training and development articles, as well as submitting to third party resolution to the boundary dispute.

Thank you for seriously considering these issues.

Respectfully Yours,
Jonathan W. Peter
Jonathan W. Peter

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON TREATIES

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