

June 19, 2006

Senator Richard G. Lugar  
Chairman  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-1401

**RE: Ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption**

Dear Senator Lugar:

We are writing on behalf of the undersigned organizations to urge the Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Corruption before December 2006. The Convention, which entered into force on December 14, 2005, reflects a global consensus on the international legal system necessary to fight corruption. To date, more than 140 countries have signed the Convention, and over 50 countries, including France, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, and the United Kingdom, have ratified it. Timely Senate ratification is necessary for the United States to play a leadership role in moving implementation forward.

The Convention can be a critical tool in the global fight against corruption. It includes provisions to prevent and criminalize corruption, and procedures for governments to recover assets that have been acquired illicitly by corrupt officials. It also includes a broad range of measures that enhance international cooperation among governments, including extradition and mutual legal assistance. As a leading prosecutor of transnational crime, the United States stands to benefit greatly from this enhanced cooperation.

United States ratification of the Convention in accordance with the Administration's October 27, 2005, transmittal package is non-controversial and has broad support. The transmittal package notes that no change in U.S. law is required. The Convention's universal prohibition on foreign bribery – the first effort of its kind with truly global reach – has unique potential to reduce the competitive disadvantage faced by U.S. companies, which have long operated under more stringent rules than their foreign competitors. It is also a crucial tool to improve rule of law, thus promoting more effective economic development and a more stable environment in countries around the world.

An effective monitoring process is critical to successful implementation of the Convention. Although the Convention provides for such a process, its specific contours will be decided in December 2006, at the first Conference of States Parties. United States leadership at that Conference is vital to ensure that an effective and transparent monitoring mechanism is put in place. As a global defender of due process rights, it is also important that the United States participate actively in interpretation and application of the Convention around the world to ensure that those countries with less robust protections use it as a tool to prosecute corrupt actors, not harass political or economic competition. The ability of the U.S. to influence these discussions will be significantly diminished if it has not ratified the Convention before the Conference takes place.

Accordingly, we would appreciate your leadership in moving the convention through the ratification process in a timely manner.

Respectfully,

American Petroleum Institute  
Business Roundtable  
Coalition for Employment Through Exports  
Coalition of Service Industries  
Emergency Committee for American Trade  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Foreign Trade Council  
United States Council for International Business  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
USA\*Engage

CC: Senator Joseph R. Biden  
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