

RESOLUTION
of
THE MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES
on the
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

WHEREAS a central purpose of The Maritime Law Association of the United States is to promote international uniformity of maritime law and greater harmony in the shipping laws, regulations, and practices of different nations;

WHEREAS the United States participated in negotiations from 1974 to 1982 and from 1990 to 1994 resulting in the treaty known as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“UNCLOS”), which has had an important role in the development of customary international law;

WHEREAS the benefits of ratification of and accession to UNCLOS by the United States include maintaining freedom of navigation and the use of international waters; promoting our interests as a global maritime power, as fully supported by the U.S. Navy; enhancing our homeland security, as fully supported by the U.S. Coast Guard; supporting our claim to a 200 mile exclusive economic zone off of all our coasts, including the Arctic; improving the environmental health of the world’s oceans; fostering their many uses and benefits as highways of trade and resources for food, energy, and minerals; and overall furthering world order with 161 nations and the European Union having already ratified UNCLOS;

WHEREAS ratification of UNCLOS by the United States would increase our national security and leveraged assertion of UNCLOS principles when they are ignored;

AND WHEREAS ratification of UNCLOS by the United States has long been supported by The Maritime Law Association of the United States and its several Committees as promoting uniformity and harmony in international maritime law;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Maritime Law Association of the United States urges United States ratification of and accession to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in furtherance of national security, our economic/commercial interests, and the preservation of world ocean resources.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of The Maritime Law Association of the United States or appointed delegates are authorized to make known this Resolution to the United States Department of State, the United States Senate, and such other persons, bodies, or organizations as the President may consider to be desirable.

DATED February 26, 2021