

Worthington, Glenn (REPS)

From: Worthington, Glenn (REPS)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 August 2002 10:10 AM
To: Gould, Gillian (REPS)
Subject: RE: East Timor Treaty

I will copy and enter into records.

-----Original Message-----
From: Gould, Gillian (REPS)
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2002 10:09 AM
To: Worthington, Glenn (REPS)
Subject: FW: East Timor Treaty

Another submission?

-----Original Message-----
From: Bishop, Julie (MP)
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2002 9:05 AM
To: Gould, Gillian (REPS)
Subject: FW: East Timor Treaty

-----Original Message-----
From: Lawrence De Costa (Home)
[mailto:ldecosta@catholicteam.inter.net.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 August 2002 7:35 AM
To: Julie.Bishop.MP@aph.gov.au; Kim.Wilkie.MP@aph.gov.au
Subject: East Timor Treaty

FROM

Lawrence De Costa
4 Curlew Ave, Newington, NSW 2127

TO

The Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Chair Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House, Canberra 2600
Email: Julie.Bishop.MP@aph.gov.au,
Fax: 02 6277 8589

and

The Hon. Kim Wilkie MP, Deputy Chair Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House Canberra, 2600
Email: Kim.Wilkie.MP@aph.gov.au,
Fax: 02 6277 8493

Dear representatives in Parliament,

I am writing as a CAA supporter and also a firm believer in the ongoing positive role that the AUstralian government can achieve in Timor. Having liberated the country after 25 years of hardship, it is now time to allow the people to develop their own skills and resources. In particular, the recent oil and gas reserves needs to be appropriately allocated to the Timorese.

Negotiations on the new Treaty began during the lead up to East Timor's independence in May 2002. During these negotiations East Timorese representatives consistently argued that the Timor Sea agreement should incorporate two objectives: an arrangement for joint commercial development and the delimitation of new maritime boundaries.

The new treaty provides for a 90:10 split of revenues in favour of East Timor, as opposed to the previous 50:50. However, it is the maritime

boundary issue that has proved to be contentious and most significant for East Timor's future.

To this end, I urge you to ensure that ratification the Timor Sea Treaty is accompanied by public commitments to issues still at large.

I wish to add that the ratification of Treaty without these commitments will not provide the best possible outcome for East Timor and is likely to lead to a negative perception of Australia from the East Timorese people. The failure to unlock the resources of the Timor Sea for the full benefit of East Timor may have significant consequences for longer-term human development, economic self-reliance and stability in East Timor. Revenues from oil and natural gas currently represent East Timor's greatest hope for meeting the people's basic needs, including economic development, health and education. In contrast, Australia is already well endowed with natural, mineral and petroleum resources and wealth. As a new nation, the people of East Timor deserve the opportunity to pursue their desire to delimit their sovereign boundaries and secure their physical place in the world. Australia's withdrawal from the dispute settlement mechanisms of the ICJ and UNCLOS seems to be an over-reaction that severely limits East Timor's options in seeking an objective, third party resolution of the maritime boundary dispute.

An economically viable East Timor is in Australia's interests and that of the region. By ensuring that ratification of the Treaty is accompanied by the measures outlined above, Australia has the opportunity to assist East Timor towards the goal of economic self reliance.

Please do all you can to ensure a just solution to this issue.

Thanking you again.

Lawrence De Costa
lawrenceanywhere@catholicteam.inter.net.au