

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2007

The Honorable Tom Lantos  
Chairman  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
B-360 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Lantos and Ranking Member Ros-Lehtinen,

We are writing to you about the "NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007" and our concerns with how the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) will be referenced in the final bill.

As you know, negotiations between Greece and the FYROM to resolve the name dispute are ongoing. All historical and archaeological evidence demonstrates that the ancient Macedonians were Greek. Macedonia is a Greek name that has designated the northern area of Greece for 2,500 years. In 1944, the name of the Skopje region was changed to Macedonia as part of Tito's imperialist campaign to gain control of the Greek province of Macedonia. The United States opposed Tito's use of the name "Macedonia" at that time and continued to do so until November 2004 when the Administration made the surprise announcement that it would recognize the FYROM as the "Republic of Macedonia." Seventy Members of Congress registered their objections to the Administration's unilateral decision in a letter, a copy of which is attached.

We believe that Congress should refrain from giving any implied recognition of the FYROM as "Macedonia." Should efforts be made to resolve differences between the House- and Senate-passed versions of the "NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007," we would strongly urge you to adopt the language of S. 494 which includes "(FYROM)" after each mention of "Macedonia."

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

  
GUS M. BILIRAKIS  
Member of Congress

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2007

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Biden and Ranking Member Lugar,

We are writing to you about the "NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007" and our concerns with how the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) will be referenced in the final bill.

As you know, negotiations between Greece and the FYROM to resolve the name dispute are ongoing. All historical and archaeological evidence demonstrates that the ancient Macedonians were Greek. Macedonia is a Greek name that has designated the northern area of Greece for 2,500 years. In 1944, the name of the Skopje region was changed to Macedonia as part of Tito's imperialist campaign to gain control of the Greek province of Macedonia. The United States opposed Tito's use of the name "Macedonia" at that time and continued to do so until November 2004 when the Administration made the surprise announcement that it would recognize the FYROM as the "Republic of Macedonia." Seventy Members of Congress registered their objections to the Administration's unilateral decision in a letter, a copy of which is attached.

We believe that Congress should refrain from giving any implied recognition of the FYROM as "Macedonia." Should efforts be made to resolve differences between the House- and Senate-passed versions of the "NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007," we would strongly urge you to adopt the language of S. 494 which includes "(FYROM)" after each mention of "Macedonia."

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

  
GUS M. BILIRAKIS  
Member of Congress