

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 27, 2007

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

There is a very sensitive situation regarding legislation being sent to you by the Congress that we believe merits your immediate attention.

While we salute the passage of S. 494 because it supports the timely and proper admission of Macedonia, among other countries, into NATO in 2008, we are deeply concerned with a provision that the Senate added to its version of the bill. Specifically, the bill you will be asked to sign now contains language that refers to Macedonia not under its official name, the "Republic of Macedonia," but as "Macedonia (FYROM)."

Many of us know that the term "FYROM" is considered derogatory and unfair to Macedonians. Today, Macedonia is an independent and sovereign country, while the country Yugoslavia no longer exists. Every nation has the right to self-determination, and Macedonians have chosen their name. This right is embedded in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That is why the United States has rightfully recognized Macedonia by its constitutional name since November 2004.

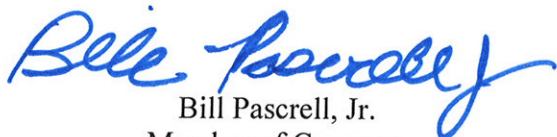
Furthermore, approximately 120 countries around the world, including Russia, China, Poland, and Turkey, all formally recognize Macedonia under the constitutional name "Republic of Macedonia."

Macedonian troops are fighting alongside our American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Introducing this insulting abbreviation will be a negative morale boost for our ally's support in the Middle East. The language in the passed legislation is thoughtless at best, reckless at worst and steps must be undertaken to resolve this issue.

We formally request that upon signing this mostly meritorious bill, that you take the opportunity to reiterate American policy regarding the name of the Republic of Macedonia. We hope that we can work together to help ensure the dignified treatment of our friend and ally.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Mark E. Souder  
Member of Congress