

Dear Colleague,

On Tuesday, June 19, an extraordinary document was signed by five Nobel Peace Prize Laureates opposing the pending Iraq Oil Law and opposing the decision by Congress to require passage of an oil law as a benchmark.

The five signers, all members of the Nobel Women's Initiative, wrote that a "law with the potential to so radically transform the basic economic securities of the people of Iraq should not be forced on Iraq." They are right, and forcing this oil law on Iraq will hurt Iraq's chances to become a successful state.

Although the Bush Administration believes that opening Iraqi oil fields to foreign control will help stabilize Iraq, the pending law includes no obligation for foreign companies to hire Iraqi workers, invest in Iraq or share new technologies. Iraq needs employment, needs investment and needs technology. Iraq's oil is its most valuable resource and its best chance to attract the resources it needs.

I urge you to read and carefully consider what the Nobelists have to say about the oil law.

Sincerely,

Jim McDermott