



MEMBER OF CONGRESS

BARBARA LEE
13TH DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA

September 25, 2014

Dear Participants:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the South China Sea Forum presented by the Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability and the Green Cities Fund at the University of California, Berkeley.

Fifty years ago today, on August 10th, 1964, Congress passed the infamous Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which President Johnson used as a legal basis for the Vietnam War. Only two U.S. Senators opposed it: Wayne Morse from Oregon and Ernest Gruening of Alaska, who stated the Resolution, as it turned out correctly, was "sending our American boys into combat in a war in which we have no business, which is not our war, into which we have been misguidedly drawn, which is steadily being escalated."

The decision to enter the war was ill informed, the public was misinformed and it resulted in millions of deaths and cost billions of dollars. It was the rush to war in 2001 and 2002 that has led to endless war in Afghanistan and the ill-begotten war in Iraq. And we are on the verge of embroiling ourselves in yet another war in the region against ISIS.

As the United States turns to Vietnam, China and Southeast Asia once again, it is important for the public to be informed as to facts and consequences of decisions that could have drastic impact on the world. I wish to thank the scholars who have come to the University of California, Berkeley today to contribute their knowledge to the discussion and debate which is necessary for informed decisions, and hope that it will become a continuing discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Lee".

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress