Dear Hon. Julie Bishop, M.P.,
Chair Joint (N) Committee on Treaties,

I am sure you have read of the 90:10 split in favour of East Timor concerning the oil and gas resources in the Timor Sea. I feel proud of our prosperity as Australians in helping this new nation. However, I was distressed when I learnt about our position concerning the maritime boundary issue, when for example, Australia claims 79.9% of the production of the largest gas field in the area ("Greater Timor Field").

Moreover, by withdrawing from the dispute settlement procedures offered by the International Court of Justice, the Maritime Boundary Tribunal, we have obstructed on the basis of the Law, our attempts to find a permanent solution to the dispute.

It is no accident that East Timor has full access to the oil and natural gas, as it is to revenue from oil and natural gas. We are a poor country without other resources, except for basic needs, such as health and education; whereas we, of course, are well endowed. Our attitude will create negative perceptions of our country, which makes
as citizens I feel ashamed to be Australians.

So I am writing to ask you to ensure
fairness in the settlement of maritime boundaries
in the Timor Sea.

Yours sincerely,

P. Catherine Smith O.A.M.