

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 3, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
US Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

We write to express our hope that the Obama Administration will heed the recent statement by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, urging foreign governments not to allow their companies to enter into new partnerships at this time with the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, or MOGE, the state-owned enterprise in Burma that controls all foreign investment in the country's oil and gas industry. We share Aung San Suu Kyi's concerns that MOGE's operations lack transparency, that it remains overly influenced by the Burmese military, and that the large amounts of foreign investment flowing into MOGE are not yet sufficiently accountable to the Burmese people or its parliament.


We have been strong supporters of the Administration's decision to suspend sanctions on U.S. investment in Burma and, more broadly, to deepen engagement between our two countries. We are not opposed in principle to U.S. investment in Burma's oil and gas industry. However, it is critical that foreign investment in Burma be carefully structured to benefit the Burmese people and strengthen the political and economic reforms that are at last under way there.

We are hopeful that Aung San Suu Kyi and her fellow members of the parliament in Burma can work legislatively to reform the country's state-owned enterprises, especially MOGE, and make their operations fully transparent and accountable to Burma's elected leaders and consistent with international standards, such as the International Monetary Fund's Code of Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency. Until the concerns expressed by Aung San Suu Kyi have been addressed, however, we urge the Administration to refrain from issuing waivers for new U.S. investment in Burma's oil and gas industry, and to push our European allies to do the same.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
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John S. McCain  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

  
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Joseph I. Lieberman  
UNITED STATES SENATOR