

John R. Bolton's resignation as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations [front page, Dec. 5] provides President Bush an opportunity to demonstrate a new course in foreign policy by nominating outgoing Rep. Jim Leach (R-Iowa) as Mr. Bolton's successor.

Mr. Leach began his career as an aide to then-Rep. Donald H. Rumsfeld and, as a Foreign Service officer, served at the United Nations under then-Ambassador George H.W. Bush. In his 30-year congressional career, including service as chairman of the House Banking Committee and the International Relations subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Leach has demonstrated consistent foresight and a strong commitment to the best of American values, tempered by his pragmatic nature. We cannot think of anyone better suited to advance U.S. interests at the United Nations.

Already, more than 50 members of Congress from both sides of the aisle have signed a letter urging Jim Leach's appointment as ambassador; we plan to send the letter to President Bush on Friday. By nominating Jim Leach, the president could signal a needed shift toward a bipartisan foreign policy and show a renewed commitment to the hallowed traditions of U.S. diplomacy.

EARL BLUMENAUER
U.S. Representative (D-Ore.)

JIM WALSH
U.S. Representative (R-N.Y.)

Washington

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