

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 4, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, members of the House of Representatives freshman class, Republican and Democrat, many of whom have recently returned from a visit to the Middle East, are deeply concerned about the prospects of a nuclear-armed Iran. We hope your recent historic direct conversation with President Rouhani will help resolve this issue. We write to share with you our view that time is running out and America must continue to broaden and strengthen our enforcement of sanctions against Iran until Tehran takes meaningful steps to stop and reverse its illicit nuclear activities.

We share your conviction that Iran must not be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon, and we are appreciative of the extensive sanctions your administration has implemented. At the same time, we believe there is a need to do more to pressure Iran to end its nuclear program. That is the reason the House overwhelmingly passed the Nuclear Iran Prevention Act of 2013 this summer.

Like you, we wish to see Iranian President Hassan Rouhani limit Iran's nuclear program and engage in serious negotiations. We acknowledge encouraging words coming from the new president. Sadly however, since his election, there is no substantive evidence to suggest that Iran is slowing, or even considering slowing, its nuclear pursuit. Instead, the 28 August International Atomic Energy Agency report suggests that Iran is, in fact, accelerating its nuclear efforts. Tehran continues its large-scale installation of advanced, higher-speed centrifuges that will enable significantly more rapid production of weapons-grade uranium. Iran is also pursuing the plutonium path and has begun production of heavy water to feed its Arak reactor.

We welcome the possibility of improved ties with Iran. But we believe that we must increase the intensity and accelerate the pace of our pressure on Iran as long as it is accelerating its efforts towards a nuclear weapons capability. Until Iran fundamentally changes course, the United States must continue to toughen sanctions. We, therefore, urge you to utilize the full set of sanctions available under current law. We believe we must focus on the energy and financial sectors, but also step up pressure in other sectors, such as construction and foreign exchange, where Iran seeks to offset the effects of current sanctions.

Finally, as we try to open the path to negotiations, we believe it is imperative that you make clear to Tehran that the United States will not allow Iran to develop nuclear weapons; that we will step up sanctions until it reverses its nuclear program, and that we stand ready to use force if necessary.

Mr. President, we want to work with you to bring Iran to the table, including implementing increasingly tougher sanctions to ensure that Iran does not acquire a nuclear weapons capability. The world is watching and history will judge us by our success protecting the region and the world from a nuclear-armed Iran.

Sincerely,



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Luke Messer
Member of Congress



Ron Barber
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Kerry Bentivolio
Member of Congress



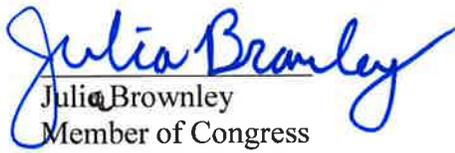
Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress



Susan Brooks
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
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Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
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Doug Collins
Member of Congress



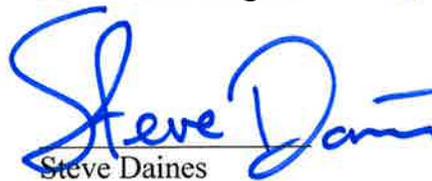
Paul Cook
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Tom Cotton
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Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Steve Daines
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Rodney Davis
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John Delaney
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
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Tammy Duckworth
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Bill Enyart
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Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
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Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Tulsi Gabbard
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Pete P. Gallego
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Member of Congress

Joe Garcia
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Member of Congress

George Holding
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Steven Horsford
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Hakeem Jeffries
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Ann Kirkpatrick
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

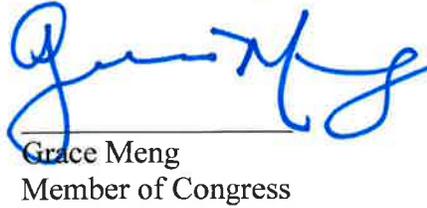
Alan Lowenthal
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress


Dan Maffei
Member of Congress


Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

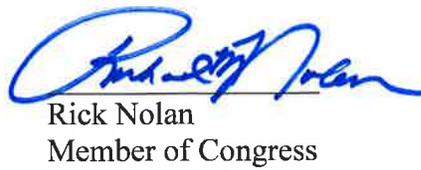

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Mark Sanford
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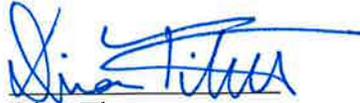

Chris Stewart
Member of Congress


Steve Stockman
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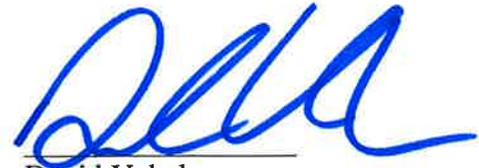

Eric Swalwell
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Mark Takano
Member of Congress



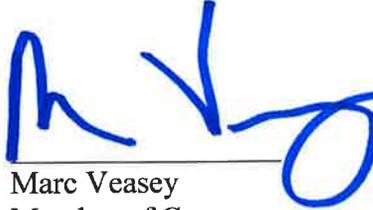
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



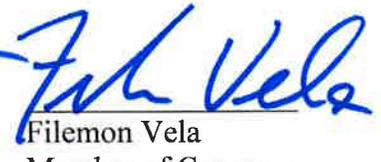
David Valadao
Member of Congress



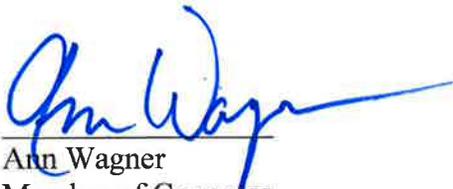
Juan Vargas
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Marc Veasey
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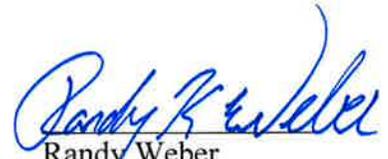
Filemon Vela
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Ann Wagner
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Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

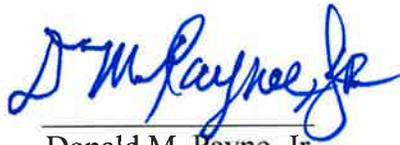


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Roger Williams
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