

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 14, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

We urge you and your colleagues in the Senate to act swiftly to continue consideration of rigorous Iran sanctions legislation.

We believe that as the United States negotiates with the P5+1 group and Tehran, it is critical to maximize U.S. leverage against the Iranian regime. The possibility of tighter sanctions will enhance our leverage in the nuclear standoff between the Iran's Supreme Leader and the international community. Despite Hassan Rouhani's attempt to portray Iran's government in a new light, the objective of the Iranian regime remains the same: the pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability.

The House has already passed legislation with the support of 400 bipartisan Representatives to increase economic pressure on the Iranian regime as it develops its nuclear weapons program. For more than three months this legislation, the *Nuclear Iran Prevention Act*, has been pending in the Senate. Meanwhile, the Iranian government presses forward and each day the world becomes less safe.

While recent assessments of the progress of Iran's nuclear program vary—with some estimating that Iran is only weeks away from producing weapons-grade uranium—what is clear is that time is running short. Protracted negotiations may give Iran more time to spin its centrifuges, while the threat of enhanced sanctions holds the promise of compelling Iran to give up its ambitions.

While we support diplomatic efforts toward an Iran free of nuclear weapons and free of nuclear weapons breakout capability, the sanctions pressure must be maintained. Every day, existing sanctions may be weakened as Iran finds loopholes and business partners willing to evade existing sanctions.

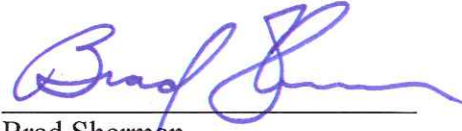
Even Hassan Rouhani, the country's new president, bragged in 2006 that Iran had deceived European negotiators into talks while it continued to develop its nuclear program. We should ensure that tougher penalties be available should Tehran be found to be using the negotiations for stalling tactics.

The deliberative process in Congress is lengthy, and many steps remain before legislation on Iran would be sent to the President. We believe, therefore, that the Senate can continue the work necessary to develop sanctions legislation without fear of short-circuiting diplomacy.

Sincerely,



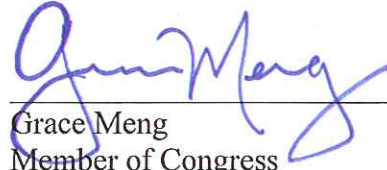
Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



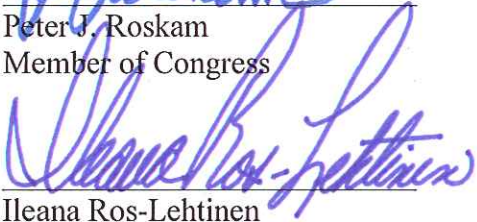
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



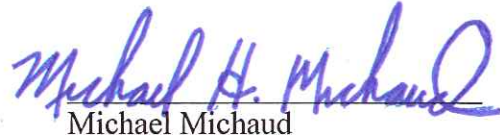
Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress



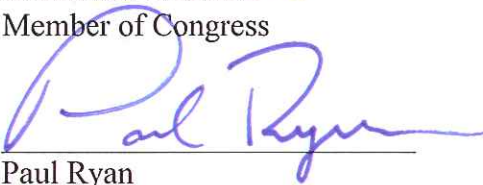
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



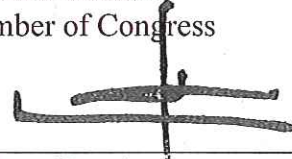
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



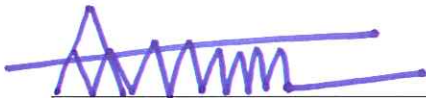
Michael H. Michaud
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Paul Ryan
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Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



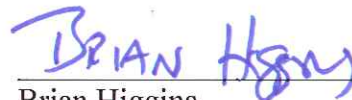
Ted Poe
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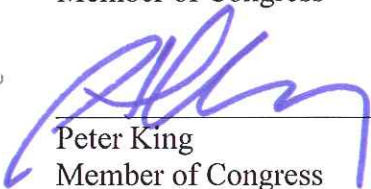
Gene Green
Member of Congress



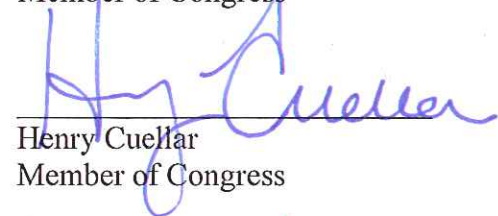
Pete Sessions
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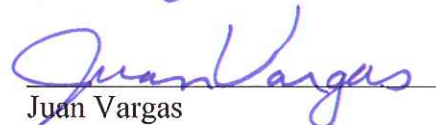
Peter King
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Henry Cuellar
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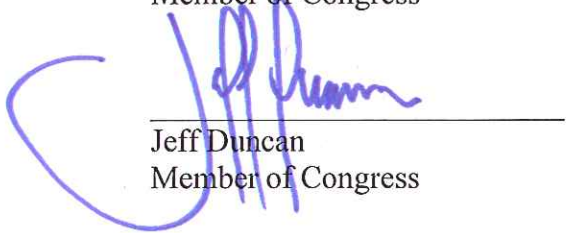
Daniel Lipinski
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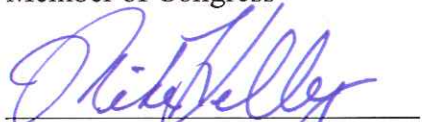
Juan Vargas
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Lynn Jenkins
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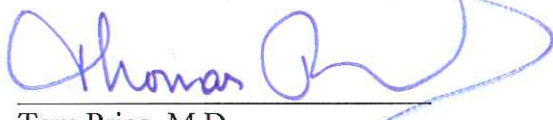

Adam Kinzinger
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Jeff Duncan
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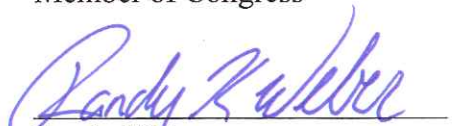

Trey Radel
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Mike Kelly
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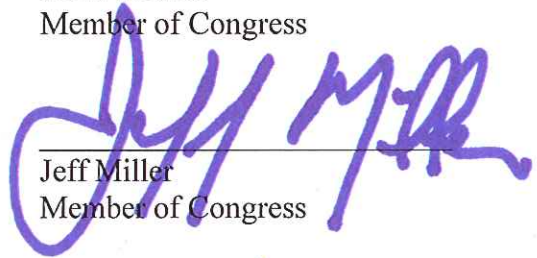

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Tom Price, M.D.
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Bill Flores
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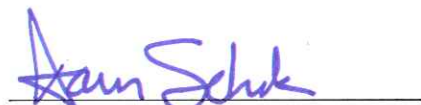

Randy Weber
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Steve Scalise
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George Holding
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Aaron Schock
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Susan Brooks
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Blake Farenthold
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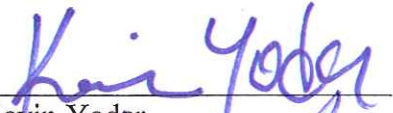

Leonard Lance
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Vern Buchanan
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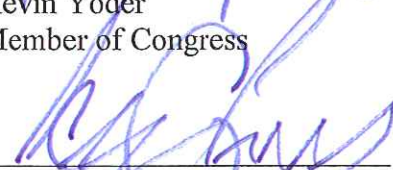
Kerry Bentivolio
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Michele Bachmann
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Scott Perry
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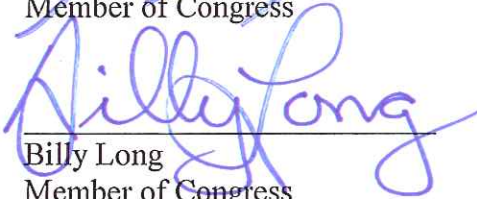
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



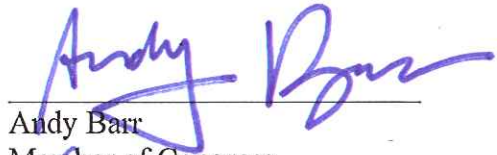
Mario Diaz-Balart
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Chris Gibson
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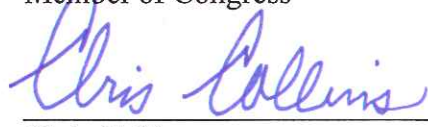
Billy Long
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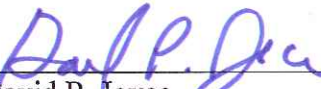
Andy Barr
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Rodney Davis
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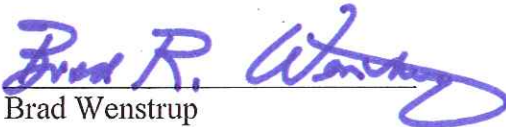
Chris Collins
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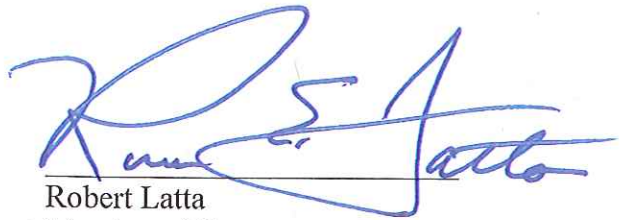
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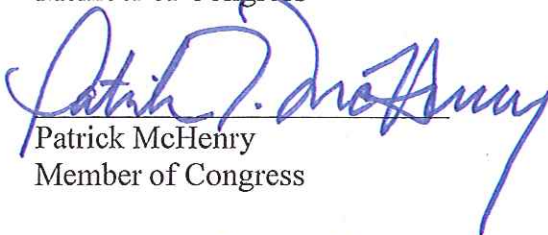
Jim Gerlach
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Gus Bilirakis
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Doug Lamborn
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Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress



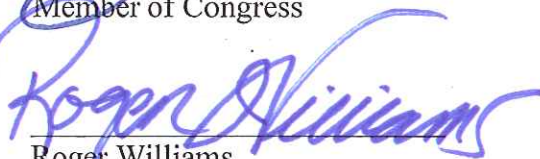
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



Paul C. Broun, M.D.
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress

Cc: Hon. Tim Johnson, Chairman, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban
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Hon. Mike Crapo, Chairman, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban
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Hon. Robert Menendez, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Hon. Bob Corker, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations