

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 02, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

With the election of Hassan Rouhani, the Iranian people signaled their clear dissatisfaction with Iran's government and its policies. We hope such a surprising and convincing electoral outcome will persuade Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to abandon Iran's nuclear weapons quest. But until we see a significant slowdown of Iran's nuclear activities, we believe our nation must toughen sanctions and reinforce the credibility of our option to use military force at the same time as we fully explore a diplomatic solution to our dispute with Iran.

We deeply sympathize with the plight of the Iranian people, who have suffered under the Khamenei regime. We note that President-elect Rouhani has pledged re-engagement with the P5+1 and promised to bring transparency to Iran's nuclear program. At the same time, Iran has used negotiations in the past to stall for time, and in any event, Khamenei is the ultimate decision-maker for Iran's nuclear program. Moreover, Iran today continues its large-scale installation of advanced centrifuges. This will soon put it in the position to be able to rapidly produce weapons-grade uranium, bringing Tehran to the brink of a nuclear weapons capability.

Accordingly, Mr. President, we urge you to bring a renewed sense of urgency to the process. We need to understand quickly whether Tehran is at last ready to negotiate seriously. Iran needs to understand that the time for diplomacy is nearing its end. We implore you to demand immediate serious moves on Iran's part. Iran should move quickly toward compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions demanding it suspend enrichment. Iran must cease installing centrifuges, agree to the removal of 20 percent enriched uranium from Iran, and cease work on the heavy water reactor being built in Arak.

We believe there are four strategic elements necessary to achieve resolution of this issue: an explicit and continuing message that we will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapons capability, a sincere demonstration of openness to negotiations, the maintenance and toughening of sanctions, and a convincing threat of the use of force that Iran will believe. We must be prepared to act, and Iran must see that we are prepared.

Mr. President, we share your conviction that Iran must not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon. We want you to know that you will have our support in doing all you can to resolve on an urgent basis this most pressing challenge to international security.

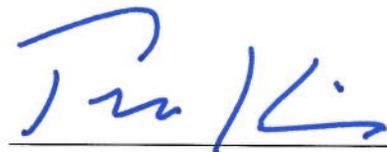
Sincerely,

  
ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator

  
LINDSEY GRAHAM  
United States Senator

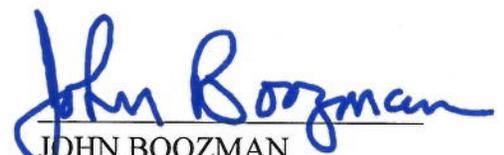
  
ROBERT P. CASEY JR.  
United States Senator

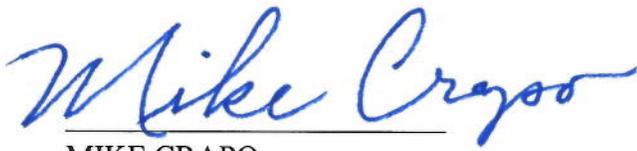
  
ROY BLUNT  
United States Senator

  
TIM KAINE  
United States Senator

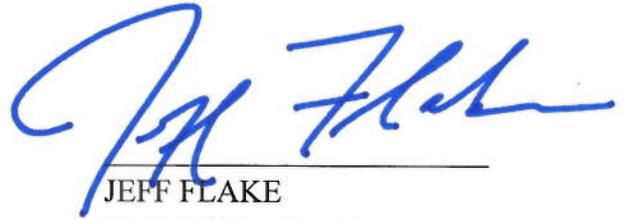
  
KELLY AYOTTE  
United States Senator

  
CHARLES E. SCHUMER  
United States Senator

  
JOHN BOOZMAN  
United States Senator



MIKE CRAPO  
United States Senator



JEFF FLAKE  
United States Senator



RON JOHNSON  
United States Senator



RICHARD BURR  
United States Senator



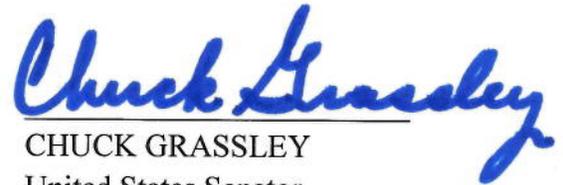
JOE MANCHIN III  
United States Senator



PAT ROBERTS  
United States Senator



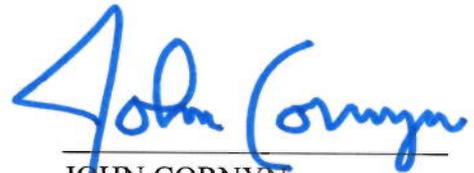
JOHN MCCAIN  
United States Senator



CHUCK GRASSLEY  
United States Senator



JERRY MORAN  
United States Senator



JOHN CORNYN  
United States Senator



JAMES M. INHOFE  
United States Senator



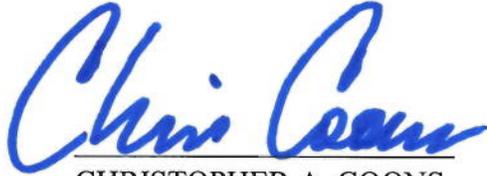
JOHN HOEVEN  
United States Senator



JOHNNY ISAKSON  
United States Senator



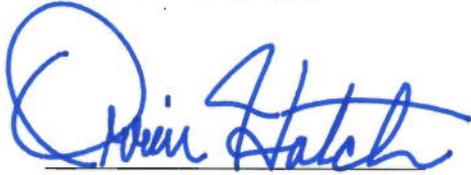
MARK BEGICH  
United States Senator



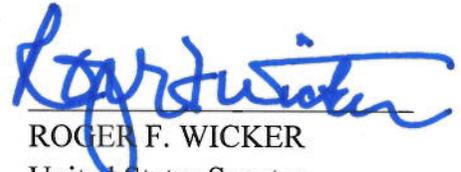
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS  
United States Senator



BENJAMIN L. CARDIN  
United States Senator



ORRIN G. HATCH  
United States Senator



ROGER F. WICKER  
United States Senator



PATTY MURRAY  
United States Senator



KAY R. HAGAN  
United States Senator



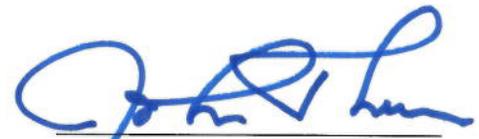
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI  
United States Senator



DEB FISCHER  
United States Senator



MIKE LEE  
United States Senator



JOHN THUNE  
United States Senator



JAMES E. RISCH  
United States Senator



SUSAN M. COLLINS  
United States Senator



ROB PORTMAN  
United States Senator



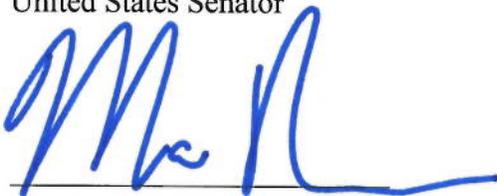
BRIAN SCHATZ  
United States Senator



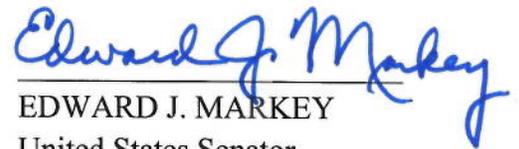
DEBBIE STABENOW  
United States Senator



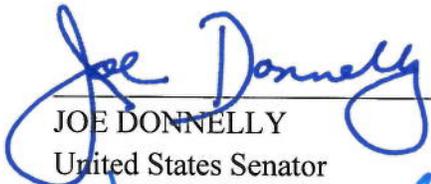
TED CRUZ  
United States Senator



MARCO RUBIO  
United States Senator



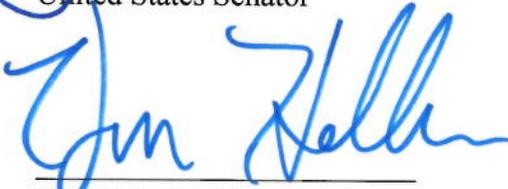
EDWARD J. MARKEY  
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JOE DONNELLY  
United States Senator



BILL NELSON  
United States Senator



DEAN HELLER  
United States Senator



MARK L. PRYOR  
United States Senator



DANIEL COATS  
United States Senator



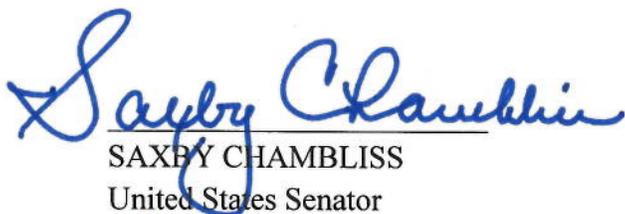
KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND  
United States Senator



MICHAEL F. BENNET  
United States Senator



DAVID VITTER  
United States Senator



SAXBY CHAMBLISS  
United States Senator



MICHAEL B. ENZI  
United States Senator



CLAIRE MCCASKILL  
United States Senator



JOHN BARRASSO  
United States Senator



PATRICK J. TOOMEY  
United States Senator



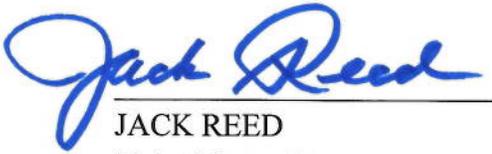
MITCH MCCONNELL  
United States Senator



SHERROD BROWN  
United States Senator



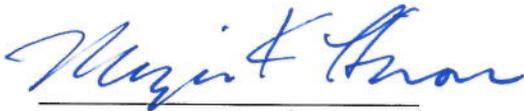
MARK R. WARNER  
United States Senator

  
JACK REED

United States Senator

  
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL

United States Senator

  
MAZIE K. HIRONO

United States Senator

  
THAD COCHRAN

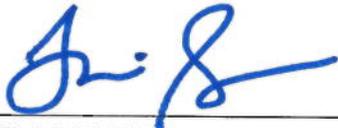
United States Senator

  
JEANNE SHAHEEN

United States Senator

  
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE

United States Senator

  
TIM SCOTT

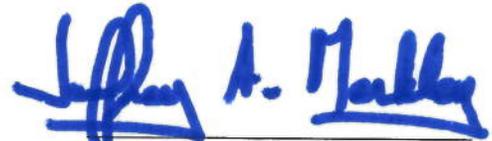
United States Senator

  
ANGUS S. KING, JR.

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MARIA CANTWELL

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JEFF MERKLEY

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AMY KLOBUCHAR

United States Senator

  
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MARY L. LANDRIEU  
United States Senator



LAMAR ALEXANDER  
United States Senator



JEFF CHIESA  
United States Senator



HEIDI HEITKAMP  
United States Senator



CHRISTOPHER MURPHY  
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