

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 18, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

We believe preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon is vital to US national security. In recent years we have strongly supported round after round of intensified US sanctions because we believe they have been an effective tool of diplomacy, bringing Iran to the negotiating table and now giving P5+1 negotiators continuing leverage to press Iran's leaders to agree to end their illicit nuclear activities. International sanctions have crippled Iran's economy, sharply curtailed its oil revenues, and helped spur the Iranian people to vote for a new approach and new leadership.

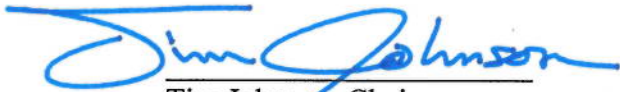
The recent Joint Plan of Action (JPA) agreed to in Geneva by the P5+1 and Iran is further proof of the effectiveness of current sanctions. As negotiations continue towards a "mutually-agreed long-term comprehensive solution" which would restrict Iran's program to exclusively peaceful purposes, sanctions must remain in place and be vigorously enforced. In addition, the US and other P5+1 countries must be vigilant in seeking to ensure that Iran complies fully with the terms of the Joint Plan of Action. We are committed to providing close oversight of efforts to monitor and verify Iran's compliance. To that end, several of us have requested for our Committees periodic briefings by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on whether Iran's actions are consistent with the JPA.

If Iran fails at any time to abide by the terms of the JPA, or the JPA is not succeeded by a final long-term agreement that verifiably ensures that Iran's nuclear program is for entirely peaceful purposes, Congress should promptly consider new sanctions legislation. However, at this time, as negotiations are ongoing, we believe that new sanctions would play into the hands of those in Iran who are most eager to see the negotiations fail. We note that the Intelligence Community's December 10, 2013 assessment states that "new sanctions would undermine the prospects for a successful comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran."

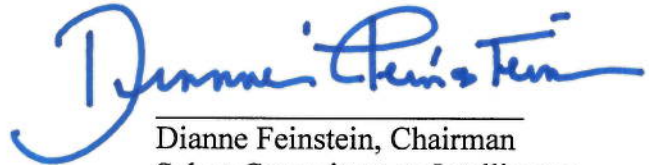
Thus we respectfully request to be consulted prior to any proposed unanimous consent or other agreement to consider any motion, amendment or other legislation in the Senate related to Iran sanctions.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

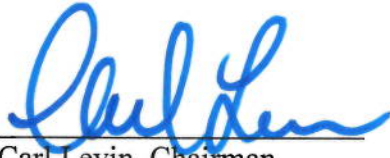
Sincerely,



Tim Johnson, Chairman
Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs



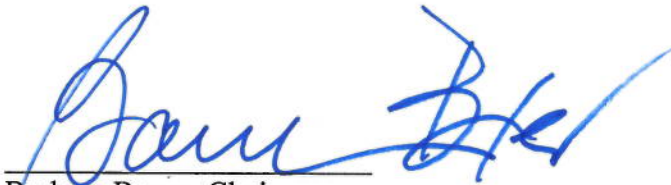
Dianne Feinstein, Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence



Carl Levin, Chairman
Committee on Armed Services



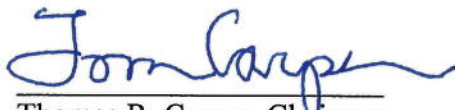
Barbara Mikulski, Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations



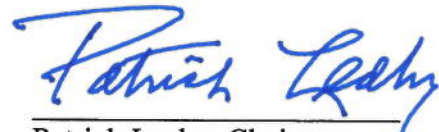
Barbara Boxer, Chairman
Committee on Environment
and Public Works



John D. Rockefeller IV, Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation



Thomas R. Carper, Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and
Government Affairs



Patrick Leahy, Chairman
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Ron Wyden, Chairman
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Tom Harkin, Chairman
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions