

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 2014

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

Dear Mr. President:

We all hope that nuclear negotiations succeed in preventing Iran from ever developing a nuclear weapons capability. For diplomacy to succeed, however, we must couple our willingness to negotiate with a united and unmistakable message to the Iranian regime.

We believe, as you do, that the pressure from economic sanctions brought Iran to the table, and that it must continue until Iran abandons its efforts to build a nuclear weapon. We also agree pressure will intensify if Iran violates the interim agreement, uses the talks simply as a delaying tactic, or walks away from the table.

For twenty years, Congress has consistently focused attention on the threat of the Iranian program and taken the lead in initiating sanctions. Congress has repeatedly stated that preventing an Iranian nuclear capability is a key goal of U.S. foreign policy. Nine separate pieces of sanctions legislation have passed Congress since 1996. We appreciate your continued commitment to preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons and your efforts to implement the sanctions, which isolated and pressured the regime into negotiations.

We believe that Congress has a continuing role to play to improve the prospects for success in the talks with Iran. As these negotiations proceed, we will outline our views about the essential goals of a final agreement with Iran, continue oversight of the interim agreement and the existing sanctions regime, and signal the consequences that will follow if Iran rejects an agreement that brings to an end its nuclear weapons ambitions.

We write now to express our support for the following core principles we believe are consistent with your administration's positions, and urge you to insist on their realization in a final agreement with Iran:

- We believe that Iran has no inherent right to enrichment under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- We believe any agreement must dismantle Iran's nuclear weapons program and prevent it from ever having a uranium or plutonium path to a nuclear bomb.
- We believe Iran has no reason to have an enrichment facility like Fordow, that the regime must give up its heavy water reactor at Arak, and that it must fully explain the questionable activities in which it engaged at Parchin and other facilities.

- We believe Iran must fully resolve concerns addressed in United Nations Security Council resolutions, including any military dimensions of its nuclear program.
- We believe Iran must also submit to a long-term and intrusive inspection and verification regime to achieve the goal described in the Joint Plan of Action of “reaffirm[ing] that under no circumstances will Iran ever seek or develop any nuclear weapons.”
- Finally, we believe Iran must not be allowed during these negotiations to circumvent sanctions. We view this period as one fraught with the danger of companies and countries looking to improve their commercial position in Tehran, especially given recent reports of rising purchases of Iranian oil. Iran cannot be allowed to be open for business. As you have stated, we must come down on those who are undermining sanctions “like a ton of bricks.”

We also believe that any agreement with Iran that could lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons or nuclear enrichment programs in the region should be rejected.

As you have said, Congress has always been a partner in presidential efforts to impose economic sanctions on Iran. Should an acceptable final agreement be reached, your administration will need to work together with Congress to enact implementing legislation to provide longer term sanctions relief beyond existing waiver authorities – either through suspension, repeal or amendment of statutory sanctions. Should negotiations fail or Iran violate the Joint Plan of Action, Congress will need to ensure that the legislative authority exists to rapidly and dramatically expand sanctions. We need to work together now to prepare for either eventuality.

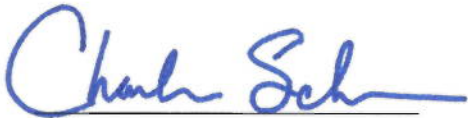
Most importantly, Iran must clearly understand the consequences of failing to reach an acceptable final agreement. We must signal unequivocally to Iran that rejecting negotiations and continuing its nuclear weapon program will lead to much more dramatic sanctions, including further limitations on Iran’s exports of crude oil and petroleum products.

Mr. President, the negotiations with Iran are likely to be arduous. We look forward to working with you on a bipartisan basis to protect America and our allies by preventing Iran from ever developing or building nuclear weapons.

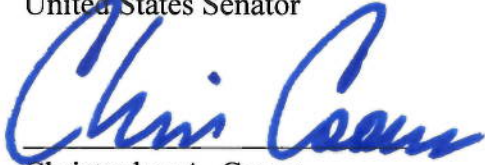
Sincerely,

  
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

  
Lindsey Graham  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



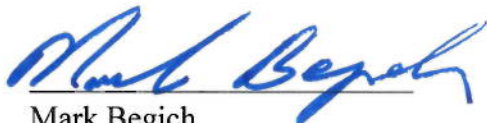
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



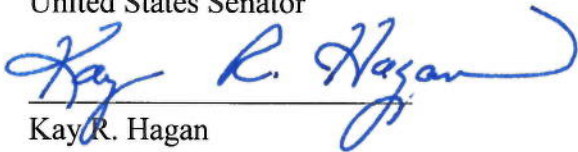
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Mark Begich  
United States Senator



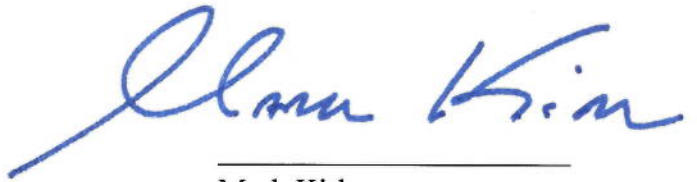
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



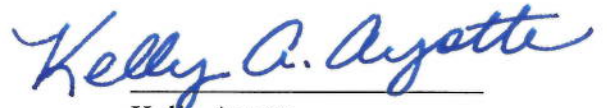
Kay R. Hagan  
United States Senator



Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



Mark Kirk  
United States Senator



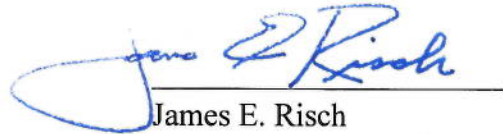
Kelly Ayotte  
United States Senator



Mitch McConnell  
United States Senator




John McCain  
United States Senator



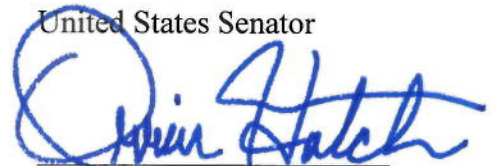
James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Dan Coats  
United States Senator



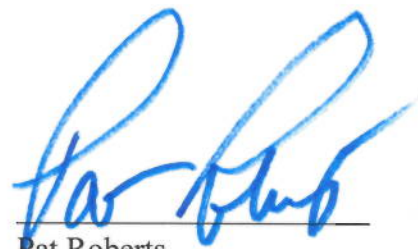
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Orrin G. Hatch  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Pat Roberts  
United States Senator



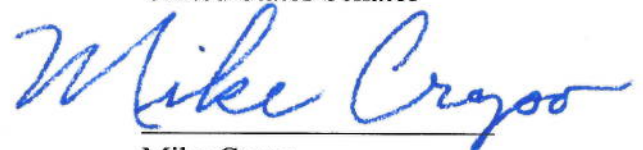
Mark L. Pryor  
United States Senator



Rob Portman  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



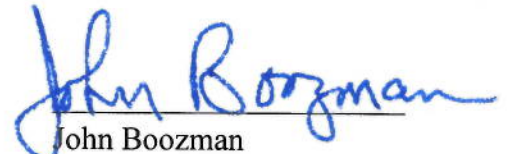
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



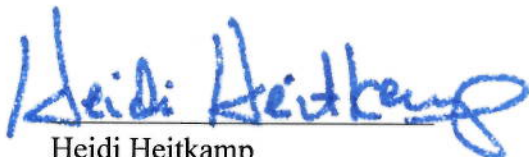
Patrick J. Toomey  
United States Senator



John Walsh  
United States Senator



John Boozman  
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator



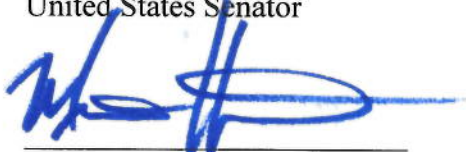
Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



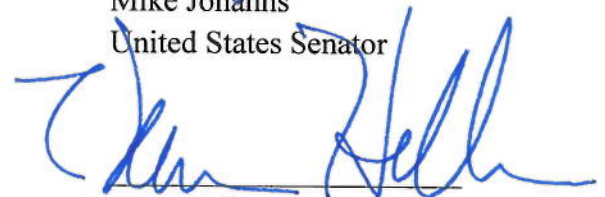
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Mike Johanns  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

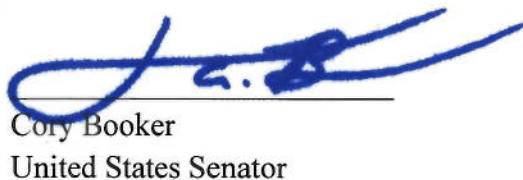


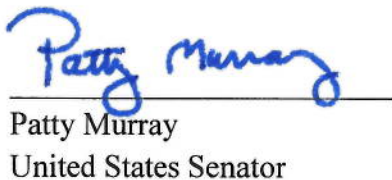
Dean Heller  
United States Senator

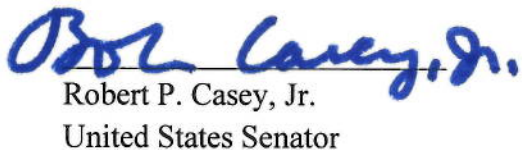
  
Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator

  
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

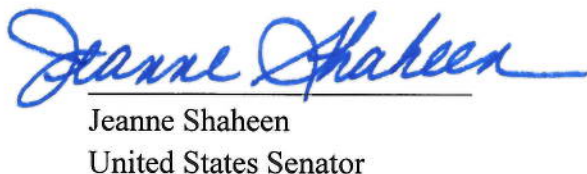
  
Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senator

  
Cory Booker  
United States Senator

  
Patty Murray  
United States Senator

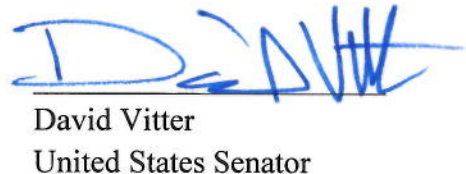
  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

  
Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator

  
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

  
Tim Scott  
United States Senator

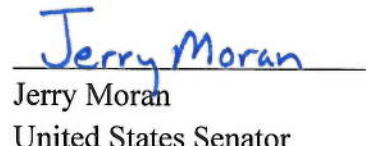
  
Jeff Sessions  
United States Senator

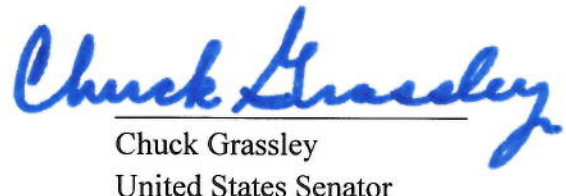
  
David Vitter  
United States Senator

  
John Hoeven  
United States Senator

  
Richard Burr  
United States Senator

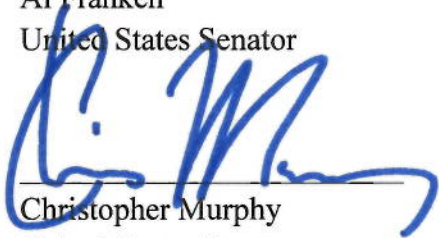
  
Ron Johnson  
United States Senator

  
Jerry Moran  
United States Senator

  
Chuck Grassley  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator



Christopher Murphy  
United States Senator



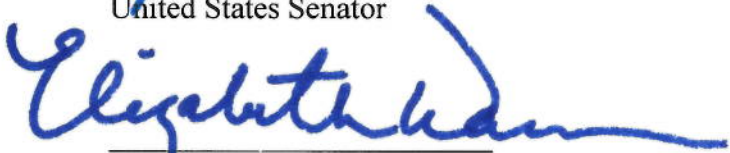
Mark Udall  
United States Senator



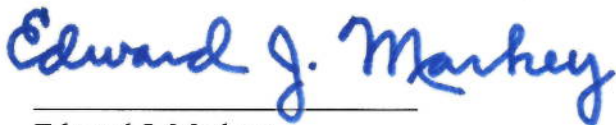
Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator



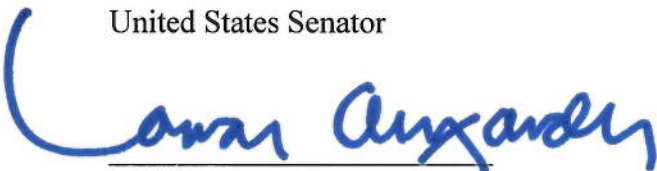
Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



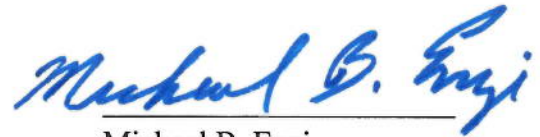
Lamar Alexander  
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



Michael B. Enzi  
United States Senator



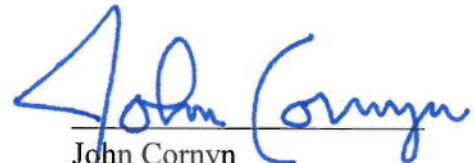
Thad Cochran  
United States Senator



Ted Cruz  
United States Senator



Mike Lee  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator



John Thune  
United States Senator

Mark R Warner

Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

Deb Fischer

Deb Fischer  
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III

Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

Saxby Chambliss

Saxby Chambliss  
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

Richard Shelby

Richard C. Shelby  
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell

Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

John Barrasso

John Barrasso  
United States Senator

Tom Coburn

Tom Coburn  
United States Senator

Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

Roy Blunt

Roy Blunt  
United States Senator

Tom Udall

Tom Udall  
United States Senator

Jack Reed

Jack Reed  
United States Senator

Marco Rubio

Marco Rubio  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Nelson  
United States Senator