March 20, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the deadline for a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran nears, we write to you to underscore the grave and urgent issues that have arisen in these negotiations. While we hope the Administration is able to achieve a lasting and meaningful agreement, we understand that there are several difficult issues that remain unresolved.

No issue will be harder to resolve with the Iranian regime than the status of its uranium enrichment program. This is the key technology Iran would need to develop a nuclear bomb—technology that Iran has been permitted to continue to research and develop under the interim arrangement. Many of us wrote to you a year ago, calling for dismantlement of significant portions of Iran’s nuclear infrastructure, “such that Iran will not be able to develop, build, or acquire a nuclear weapon.” A final comprehensive nuclear agreement must constrain Iran’s nuclear infrastructure so that Iran has no pathway to a bomb, and that agreement must be long-lasting.

International inspectors report that Iran has still not revealed its past bomb work, despite its international obligations to do so. Of the 12 sets of questions that the International Atomic Energy Agency has been seeking, Tehran has answered just part of one. Just last week, the IAEA reported that it is still concerned about signs of Iran’s military related activities, including designing a nuclear payload for a missile. Indeed, inspectors had amassed “over a thousand pages” which showed “research, development and testing activities” on technologies needed to develop a nuclear weapon. Last fall, over 350 Members of the House wrote to the Secretary of State expressing deep concerns about this lack of cooperation. The potential military dimensions of Iran’s nuclear program should be treated as a fundamental test of Tehran’s intention to uphold the final comprehensive agreement. Unless we have a full understanding of Iran’s past program it will be impossible for the international community to judge Iran’s future breakout time with certainty.

Iran’s record of clandestine activity and intransigence prevents any trust in Iran. Indeed, a top State Department negotiator has told Congress that, “deception is part of [Iran’s] DNA.” Even during the period of negotiations, Iran has illicitly procured nuclear technology, which your Administration quickly sanctioned. Additionally, because of the strict inspections regime under the Joint Plan of Action, Tehran was caught testing a more advanced centrifuge that would have helped produce bomb material more quickly. Given Iran’s decades of deception, negotiators must obtain maximum commitments to transparency by Iran. Any inspection and verification
regime must allow for short notice access to suspect locations, and verifiable constraints on Iran’s nuclear program must last for decades.

Finally, while the negotiations with Iran have focused exclusively on Iran’s nuclear program, it is critical that we also consider Iran’s destabilizing role in the region. Iran is boosting Assad in Syria, supporting sectarian elements in Iraq that undercut hopes for a unified and stable country, and providing assistance to Hezbollah, which continues to threaten Israel. And last month, an Iranian-backed militia displaced the government in Yemen, a key counterterrorism partner. Iran’s Supreme Leader has also called for an expansion of his country’s ballistic missile program, yet another dimension of the potential threat posed by Iran. Iran’s role in fomenting instability in the region—not to mention Iran’s horrendous repression at home—demonstrates the risks of negotiating with a partner we cannot trust.

The United States has had a longstanding interest in preventing Iran from achieving a nuclear weapons capability. Over the last twenty years, Congress has passed numerous pieces of legislation imposing sanctions on Iran to prevent that outcome, ultimately forcing Iran into negotiations. Should an agreement with Iran be reached, permanent sanctions relief from congressionally-mandated sanctions would require new legislation. In reviewing such an agreement, Congress must be convinced that its terms foreclose any pathway to a bomb, and only then will Congress be able to consider permanent sanctions relief.

Resolving the nuclear crisis with Iran remains of grave importance to our nation’s security. As the Administration continues to negotiate with Iran, we are prepared to evaluate any agreement to determine its long-term impact on the United States and our allies. We remain hopeful that a diplomatic solution preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon may yet be reached, and we want to work with you to assure such a result.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE
Member of Congress

ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress

JOHN A. BOEHNER
Member of Congress

STENY H. HOYER
Member of Congress
DARRELL E. ISSA  
Member of Congress

GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
Member of Congress

RON DESANTIS  
Member of Congress

TULSI GABBARD  
Member of Congress

MATT SALMON  
Member of Congress

ALBIO SIERES  
Member of Congress

JEFF DUNCAN  
Member of Congress

KAREN BASS  
Member of Congress

PATRICK T. McHENRY  
Member of Congress

ALAN S. LOWENTHAL  
Member of Congress

MAC THORNBERRY  
Member of Congress

MATT CARTWRIGHT  
Member of Congress
PAUL RYAN
Member of Congress

KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress

GREG WALDEN
Member of Congress

JAMES R. LANGEVIN
Member of Congress

TOM PRICE
Member of Congress

ANN M. KUSTER
Member of Congress

BLAKE FARENTHOLD
Member of Congress

KATHY CASTOR
Member of Congress

PATRICK J. TIBERI
Member of Congress

SUZAN K. DELBENE
Member of Congress

MIKE POMPEO
Member of Congress

ANN KIRKPATRICK
Member of Congress
KEVIN YODER
Member of Congress

PATRICK MURPHY
Member of Congress

JIM BRIDENSTINE
Member of Congress

JUDY CHU
Member of Congress

SCOTT TIPTON
Member of Congress

RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress

THOMAS J. ROONEY
Member of Congress

ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress

DUNCAN HUNTER
Member of Congress

GRACE MENG
Member of Congress

ROBERT PITTENGER
Member of Congress

SANFORD BISHOP
Member of Congress
The President
March 20, 2015
Page 10

CHRIS STEWART
Member of Congress

DAVID LOEBSACK
Member of Congress

MIKE ROGERS
Member of Congress

TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress

RYAN K. ZINKE
Member of Congress

BILL FLORES
Member of Congress

BOB GIBBS
Member of Congress

MORGAN H. GRIFFITH
Member of Congress

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress

JOHN R. CARTER
Member of Congress

ADAM KINZINGER
Member of Congress
TOM MARINO  
Member of Congress

DAVID B. MCKINLEY  
Member of Congress

JACKIE WALORSKI  
Member of Congress

SCOTT E. RIGELL  
Member of Congress

MARTHA ROBY  
Member of Congress

RICHARD HUDSON  
Member of Congress

MO BROOKS  
Member of Congress

JOHN SHIMKUS  
Member of Congress

MICHAEL K. SIMPSON  
Member of Congress

P. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr.  
Member of Congress

JEB HENSARLING  
Member of Congress

BILL SHUSTER  
Member of Congress
The President
March 20, 2015
Page 12

TOM GRAVES
Member of Congress

JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

TOM McClintock
Member of Congress

BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress

ANN WAGNER
Member of Congress

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress

MARIO DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress

BRENDAN F. BOYLE
Member of Congress

ANDER CRENshaw
Member of Congress

C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress

KEITH J. ROTHFUS
Member of Congress

CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress
ROBERT E. LATTA
Member of Congress

BRAD R. WENSTRUP
Member of Congress

FRANK A. LOBIONDO
Member of Congress

BRIAN BABIN
Member of Congress

MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress

BRUCE WESTERMAN
Member of Congress

MARK MEADOWS
Member of Congress

JOE HECK
Member of Congress

JOE BARTON
Member of Congress

HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES
Member of Congress

TIM RYAN
Member of Congress

DANIEL LIPINSKI
Member of Congress
The President
March 20, 2015
Page 24

EMANUEL CLEAVER
Member of Congress

EVAN H. JENKINS
Member of Congress

FRANK C. GUINTA
Member of Congress

GARRET GRAVES
Member of Congress

GARY J. PALMER
Member of Congress

GLENN GROTHMAN
Member of Congress

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress

HAROLD ROGERS
Member of Congress

JAMIE HERRERA BEUTLER
Member of Congress

JOHN KLINE
Member of Congress

JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress

JOHN RATCLIFFE
Member of Congress
BRAD ASHFORD
Member of Congress

LEE M. ZELDIN
Member of Congress

PETE OLSON
Member of Congress

ROD BLUM
Member of Congress

MARK SANFORD
Member of Congress

MARK WALKER
Member of Congress

MIA B. LOVE
Member of Congress

MICK MULVANEY
Member of Congress

MIKE BOST
Member of Congress

MIKE BISHOP
Member of Congress

MIMI WALTERS
Member of Congress

JOHN MOOLENAAR
Member of Congress
PAUL COOK  
Member of Congress

RALPH LEE ABRAHAM  
Member of Congress

RANDY NEUGEBAUER  
Member of Congress

RANDY HULTGREN  
Member of Congress

RENEE L. ELMERS  
Member of Congress

RICK W. ALLEN  
Member of Congress

ROBERT HURT  
Member of Congress

ROB BISHOP  
Member of Congress

ROBERT J. DOLE  
Member of Congress

RYAN A. COSTELLO  
Member of Congress

STEVE KNIGHT  
Member of Congress

THOMAS MACARTHUR  
Member of Congress
SUSAN A. DAVIS  
Member of Congress

MARK DESAULNIER  
Member of Congress

STEPHEN LEE FINCHER  
Member of Congress

KAY GRANGER  
Member of Congress

JODY B. HICE  
Member of Congress

SAM JOHNSON  
Member of Congress

PETER A. DEFAZIO  
Member of Congress

TAMMY DUCKWORTH  
Member of Congress

SCOTT GARRETT  
Member of Congress

ALCEE L. HASTINGS  
Member of Congress

FRENCH J. HILL  
Member of Congress

MARCY KAPTUR  
Member of Congress
The President
March 20, 2015
Page 31

JOHN FLEMING
Member of Congress

DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress

MARKWAYNE MULLIN
Member of Congress

DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress

KEVIN CRAMER
Member of Congress

JIM COOPER
Member of Congress

FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress

KEN BUCK
Member of Congress

ED WHITFIELD
Member of Congress

LARRY BUCSHON
Member of Congress

LAMAR SMITH
Member of Congress

DON YOUNG
Member of Congress
The President
March 20, 2015
Page 32

TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress

RODNEY DAVIS
Member of Congress

DIANA DeGETTE
Member of Congress

CHAKAH FATTAH
Member of Congress

AL GREEN
Member of Congress

CRESSENT HARDY
Member of Congress

DENNY HECK
Member of Congress

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress

BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
Member of Congress

BEN RAY LUJÁN
Member of Congress

JEFF MILLER
Member of Congress

RICHARD E. NEAL
Member of Congress
The President  
March 20, 2015  
Page 33

BETO O’ROURKE  
Member of Congress

SCOTT H. PETERS  
Member of Congress

JOSE E. SERRANO  
Member of Congress

STEVEN M. PALAZZO  
Member of Congress

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD  
Member of Congress