

Support H.R. 5119 – Rep. Pompeo The No Heavy Water ($^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) From Iran Act

“We shouldn’t be paying them for something they shouldn’t be producing in the first place”

Background: Heavy water ($^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) is essential to the production of weapons-grade plutonium. While this relatively rare chemical is not radioactive, it has long been tightly controlled due to its use as coolant in heavy water nuclear reactors—which experts call a “plutonium bomb factory.”

Despite the key role this material plays in the production of nuclear weapons, **the Obama Administration’s flawed nuclear agreement does not limit Iran’s ability to produce heavy water.** Instead the deal allows Iran to possess a small amount of heavy water for its newly legitimized nuclear program and requires Iran to ship any excess heavy water that it produces out of the country. While the nuclear deal envisions Iran selling its excess heavy water on the international market, **the deal does not require the United States or any other country to buy Iran’s excess heavy water.** Iran can comply with the limits on its heavy water possession by stopping its production.

However, in April the Obama Administration agreed to purchase 32 metric tons of heavy water from Iran. According to Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, the U.S. purchase “*will be a statement to the world: ‘You want to buy heavy water from Iran, you can buy heavy water from Iran. It’s been done. Even the United States did it.’*”

This purchase goes far beyond the nuclear deal by both subsidizing and incentivizing Iran’s continued production of heavy water. Sales of heavy water will allow Iran to receive additional hard currency that it desperately needs after years of economic sanctions and is part of the Obama Administration’s misguided effort to ensure that Iran “*gets relief*” under the deal.

This purchase portrays Iran as a legitimate supplier of sensitive nuclear technology—despite this rogue regime’s continued support for terrorism, development of ballistic missiles, and attempts to acquire destabilizing conventional weapons. After the deal’s major nuclear restrictions expire in 15 years, Iran could use its capability to produce large quantities of heavy water to construct a heavy water reactor capable of churning out weapons-grade plutonium.

This Bill:

- Prohibits U.S. purchases of heavy water from Iran, preventing U.S. tax dollars from subsidizing this rogue regime.