

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 5, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request that you withdraw from consideration the agreement on peaceful nuclear cooperation with Russia that was recently submitted to Congress, particularly in light of the request for an extension of your waiver authority in the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act (INKSNA) that would allow NASA to continue to purchase spacecraft from the Russian space agency.

The Administration has argued that Russia's record regarding Iran's nuclear and missile programs is now sufficiently satisfactory to justify moving forward with the nuclear cooperation agreement. We believe this argument is directly contradicted by the request for an extension of the INKSNA waiver authority because it would appear that you are unable to make the certifications under section 6(b) of this law concerning Russian cooperation in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and of missiles to Iran, Syria, or North Korea.

As you are aware, there is strong bipartisan opposition in both the House and Senate to consideration at this time of a nuclear cooperation agreement with Russia. The principal concern is Russia's troubling record regarding Iran's nuclear program, both in terms of actual assistance and its ongoing efforts to prevent the imposition of effective sanctions by the United Nations Security Council. But there are many other considerations as well, including Russia's continuing sale of advanced conventional weapons and missiles to Iran. Russian assistance to rogue states has been well-documented by U.S. intelligence agencies, including unclassified reports to Congress.

Concerns about this cooperation have been expressed to the Administration on many occasions by Members in both chambers in public and private statements, as well as in writing. The House as a whole has clearly spoken by its vote of 397 to 16 in favor of H.R. 1400, the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007, which prohibits the submission to Congress of a nuclear cooperation agreement with any country that is assisting Iran's nuclear, conventional weapons, or missile programs.

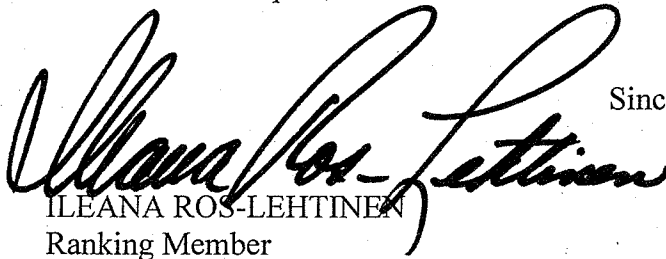
Nevertheless, despite these repeated and unequivocal messages, the Administration decided to proceed, asserting that Russia's cooperation regarding Iran merits expanded nuclear cooperation.

Yet, the Administration has contradicted itself by requesting the INKSNA waiver, thereby acknowledging that Russia's actions with respect to Iran fall far below the standard required by the law for you, Mr. President, to make a determination that the Government of the Russian Federation "has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate a sustained commitment to seek out and prevent the transfer" of "goods, services, and technology that could make a material contribution to the development of nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons, or of ballistic or cruise missile systems" to Iran, Syria, and North Korea – three countries of proliferation concern designated by the State Department as state-sponsors of terrorism.

In this context, Mr. President, we must ask about the Administration's intentions concerning Russia and Section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act, as amended by the Iran Freedom Support Act, which establishes mandatory, non-waivable, sanctions on any person that has "exported, transferred, or otherwise provided to Iran any goods, services, technology, or other items knowing that the provision of such goods, services, technology, or other items would contribute materially to the ability of Iran to acquire or develop chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons or related technologies; or acquire or develop destabilizing numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons."

Either Russia is continuing to assist Iran or it is not.

For these reasons, we believe the Administration has a clear choice to make: either withdraw from consideration by Congress the nuclear cooperation agreement with Russia or issue a certification to Congress under pertinent U.S. laws, with accompanying detailed report, that Russia has suspended all nuclear assistance to Iran and ceased to transfer to it advanced conventional weapons and missiles to the other rogue regimes listed under INKSNA.

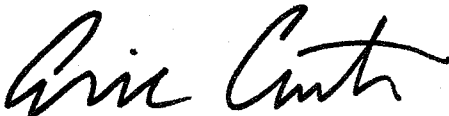


ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Foreign Affairs

Sincerely,



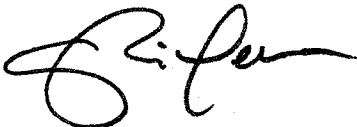
THADDEUS McCOTTER  
Chairman  
Republican Policy Committee



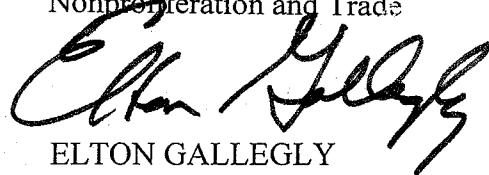
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Republican Whip



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Subcommittee on Terrorism,  
Nonproliferation and Trade



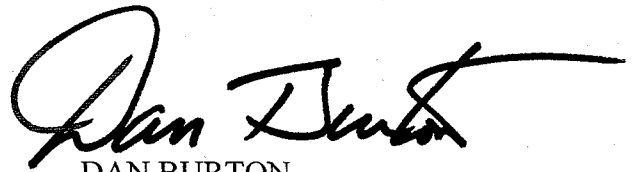
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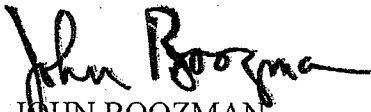
DAN BURTON  
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Western Hemisphere



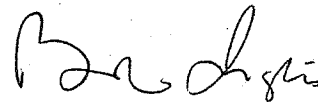
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Ranking Member  
Small Business Committee  
Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs



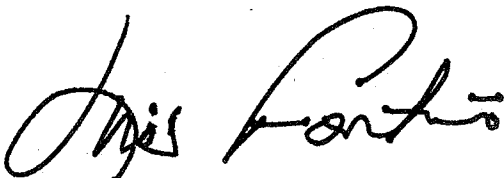
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and Global Health



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BOB INGLIS  
Member  
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