

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 12, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry  
U.S. Secretary of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington DC, 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

We are writing to express our deep concern over reports that Russia may be renewing their agreement to supply Iran with five S-300 air defense systems. This potential arms transfer would have devastating implications for Middle East regional security.

Russia's initial agreement to sell the S-300 air defense system to Iran in 2007 received considerable international opposition and ultimately contributed to a 2010 United Nations Security Council resolution that included sanctions aimed at halting advanced weapons sales to the Iranian government. United Nations Security Council resolution 1929 calls upon all states to exercise vigilance and restraint over the supply, sale, transfer, provision, manufacture and use of all arms and related material to Iran.

Maintaining a credible military threat is a crucial component of United States policy to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons capabilities. If the S-300 enters into service in Iran, it would significantly expand the military effectiveness of Iranian air power, which will only embolden Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's illicit pursuit of nuclear weapons.

While we understand the role that diplomacy with Russia could play in potentially forcing Syria to abandon its chemical weapons, we ask that you remain steadfast in your opposition to the transfer of destabilizing weapons to Iran and other rogue nations in your upcoming discussions in Geneva. Failure to pressure Russia on this issue may allow Iran to obtain capabilities that would materially diminish the credibility of a U.S. military threat.

Russia's reported actions defy their international commitments, threaten regional security, undermine P5+1 negotiations, and risk the potential for these advanced weapons to be transferred to Iran's proxy Hezbollah or the Assad regime. We urge you to send Russia a clear message that this kind of irresponsible provocation will not be tolerated by the United States and the international community.

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Thank you for your attention to this critically important matter, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Theodore E. Deutch  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Peter J. Roskam  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS