

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 10, 2012

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman
Armed Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Armed Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith:

As Iran defiantly continues its effort to obtain a nuclear weapon capability, it is imperative that the United States look for new ways to increase the pressure on Iran's leadership. In recent years, Congress has responded aggressively to the Iranian threat, and we believe another significant opportunity exists in the coming weeks to help prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. As the House moves to conference committee to resolve differences with the Senate on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, we write to emphasize the importance of the Menendez-Kirk-Lieberman amendment to increase sanctions on Iran and to offer our full support for its inclusion in the final conference report.

Successive reports from the International Atomic Energy Agency have made clear that despite international opposition, Iran has not abandoned its nuclear ambitions. The Menendez-Kirk-Lieberman provisions are critical next steps in our legislative effort to bring crippling economic pressure on the Iranian regime. This bipartisan language would target Iran's energy, shipping, ship-building and port sectors for additional sanctions, as transactions through these sectors are used to support and fund Iran's nuclear proliferation.

The inclusion of this Menendez-Kirk-Lieberman language in the final conference report would signal to the Iranian regime that they should not question the resolve of the United States Congress to prevent them from acquiring a nuclear weapon. These provisions passed the Senate 94-0, and we are confident they enjoy overwhelming support in the House of Representatives.

Therefore, we strongly encourage you to support and protect these efforts to confront Iran's nuclear program in the conference committee, and to resist efforts to weaken or water down the amendment's provisions.

Sincerely,



Bob Dold
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Ted Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Randy Hultgren
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jan Schakowsky
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Aaron Schock
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Eliot Engel
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Adam Kinzinger
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Brad Sherman
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Leonard Lance
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Steve Israel
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David Cicilline
MEMBER OF CONGRESS