

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 14, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Kerry:

As Members of Congress, we write to express our continued concerns over the direction of our foreign policy towards Iran.

On multiple occasions in October and November 2015, it was reported that the Iranian government conducted illegal tests of its new medium range ballistic missile. These tests directly challenge American access to the Strait of Hormuz. Further, it has been widely reported that the Iranian military captured and detained several uniformed Navy sailors just this past week – actions that are a far cry from standard nautical practice and possibly in violation of international law.

Additionally, news reports indicate that Saudi Arabia, along with Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Sudan, have reduced or ceased diplomatic ties with Iran over an international incident that stems from concerns over Iran's continued support of illicit terrorist activities. These diplomatic actions come only months after Saudi Arabia assembled a coalition of over 30 Islamic countries to combat global terrorism.

We await your official response to the actions taken by Saudi Arabia and others against Iran. Consistent with Iran's actions in the past, they continue to abrogate prevailing agreements in pursuit of their objectives. The misguided judgment by the administration has emboldened Iran and fostered an expansionary role as a state-sponsor of terror.

Regarding the illegal missile tests, it is untenable that the administration recently reversed its plans to impose sanctions on Iran for its missile tests that clearly violate U.N. Security Council Resolutions 1929 and 2231. We view your responses towards their missile tests and detention of our uniformed military members as precursor to a reaction that favors Iran after the diplomatic fallout that occurred with Saudi Arabia.

Strategically, this administration has created a scenario where foreign policy decision-making is based solely on justifying the competence of the Iran deal. The United States appears unwilling to leverage regional momentum against an Iranian government that has spent decades supporting terrorism and other anti-American policies.

As you are well aware, the Iranian government over the past several years has been accused of funding, arming, training, and giving sanctuary to U.S.-designated terrorists. Many Middle Eastern governments are taking unprecedented diplomatic actions against Iran. We believe that your adherence to the Iran deal will place U.S. foreign diplomacy on the side of Iran. This comes at a time when many of our regional allies, including Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, have spoken out against Iran's support of terror organizations and the oppressive Assad regime.

At a critical moment for U.S. foreign policy, we hope that you will reconsider your strategic alignment with the Iranian government and give full support to our Middle Eastern allies.

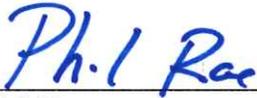
Sincerely,



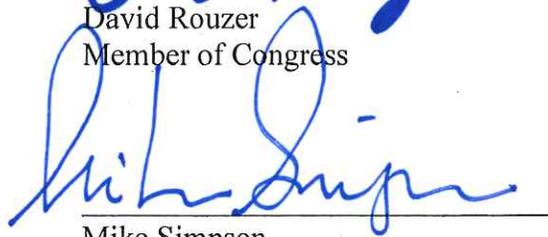
Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress



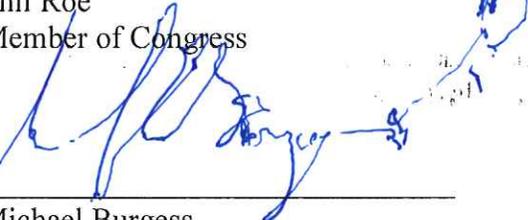
David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Phil Roe
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



Michael Burgess
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



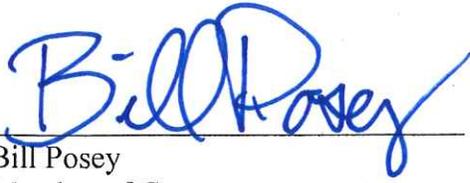
Dennis Ross
Member of Congress



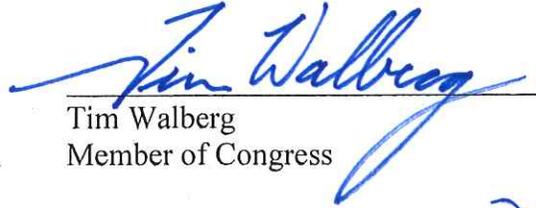
Thomas Rooney
Member of Congress



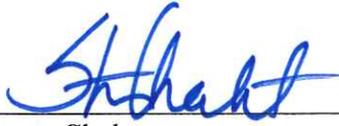
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



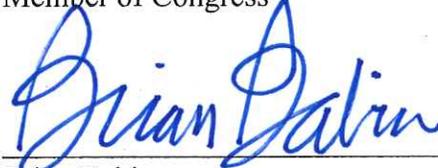
Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



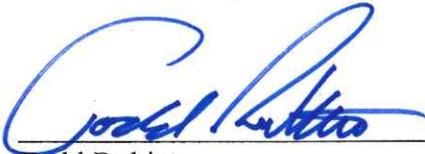
Brian Babin
Member of Congress



Marlin Stutzman
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



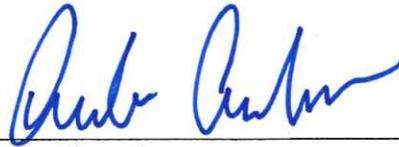
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



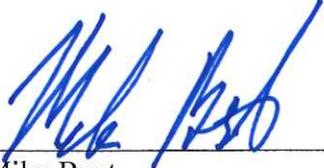
Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



Alex Mooney
Member of Congress



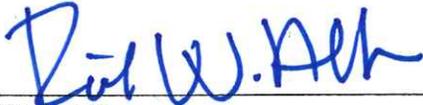
Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress


Mike Bost
Member of Congress


Joe Pitts
Member of Congress


Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

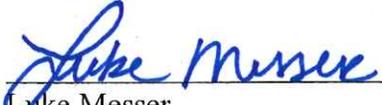

Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

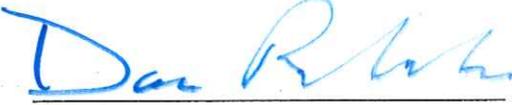

Rick Allen
Member of Congress


Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress

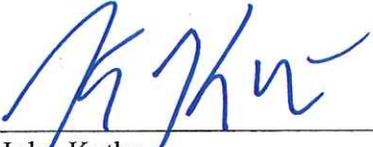

Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress


Steve Russell
Member of Congress


Luke Messer
Member of Congress


Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress


Dan Benishek
Member of Congress


John Katko
Member of Congress


Chris Stewart
Member of Congress


Paul Gosar
Member of Congress


Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress


Tom Rice
Member of Congress



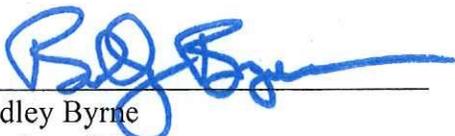
Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Susan Brooks
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



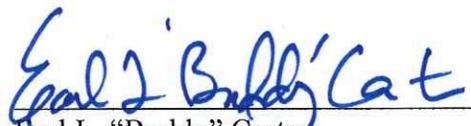
Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Martha McSally
Member of Congress