

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 9, 2011

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Following the latest report of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Iran's nuclear program and recent Iranian missile tests, we remain seriously concerned that Iran continues to accelerate its uranium enrichment and ballistic missile programs. Meanwhile, the regime refuses to answer questions posed by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog regarding evidence Iran is working toward the development of nuclear weapons.

We must do more to increase the economic pressure on the regime. In our view, the United States should embark on a comprehensive strategy to pressure Iran's financial system by imposing sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), or Bank Markazi. If our key allies are willing to join, we believe this step can be even more effective.

As you know, the Iranian regime continues to pursue avenues to circumvent both U.S. and multilateral sanctions. In the banking sector, the Central Bank of Iran lies at the center of Iran's circumvention strategy. In May, Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David Cohen stated that "the activities of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) have been, and continue to be, a focus of the Treasury Department. Treasury has noted previously that the CBI and Iranian commercial banks have requested that their names be removed from international payment messages to make it more difficult for intermediary financial institutions to determine the true parties to the transaction, and we remain concerned that the CBI may be facilitating transactions for sanctioned Iranian banks."

The time has come to impose crippling sanctions on Iran's financial system by cutting off the CBI. There is strong bipartisan support in Congress for the imposition of sanctions on the CBI. As recently as consideration of the FY10 National Defense Authorization Act, the Senate unanimously supported an amendment urging you to impose such sanctions. We urge you to strongly consider imposing U.S. sanctions against the CBI and to encourage key allies to join us in this important action.

Sincerely,



Senator Charles E. Schumer



Senator Mark Kirk

Senator Mitch McConnell

Senator Richard J. Durbin

Senator Jon Kyl

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman

Senator Richard G. Lugar

Senator Susan M. Collins

Senator John McCain

Senator Carl Levin

Senator Thad Cochran

Senator Daniel K. Inouye

Senator Saxby Chambliss

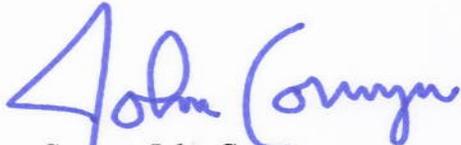
Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Richard C. Shelby

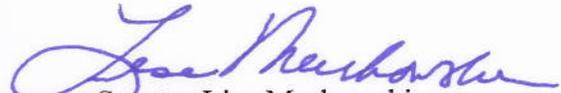
Senator Max Baucus

Senator Orrin G. Hatch

Senator Patty Murray



Senator John Cornyn



Senator Lisa Murkowski



Senator Lindsey Graham



Senator Jerry Moran



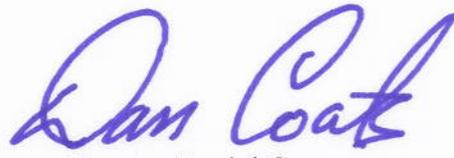
Senator Roy Blunt



Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand



Senator Ron Wyden



Senator Daniel Coats



Senator David Vitter



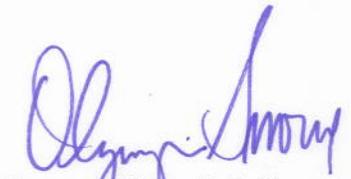
Senator John Boozman



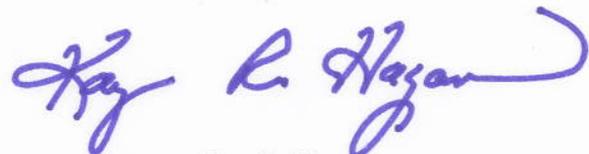
Senator Dean Heller



Senator Marco Rubio



Senator Olympia J. Snowe



Senator Kay R. Hagan



Senator Mark Begich



Senator John Barrasso



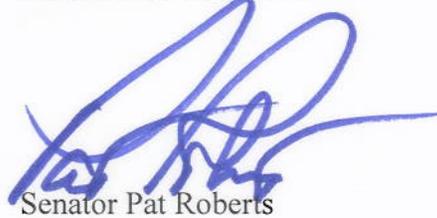
Senator Bob Corker



Senator Barbara Boxer



Senator Sheldon Whitehouse



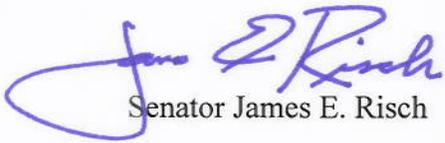
Senator Pat Roberts



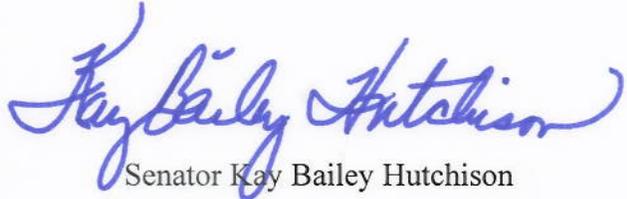
Senator Sherrod Brown



Senator Mike Crapo



Senator James E. Risch



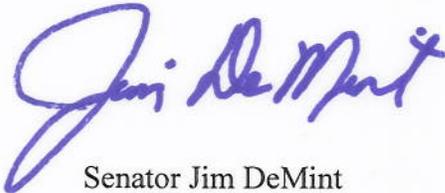
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison



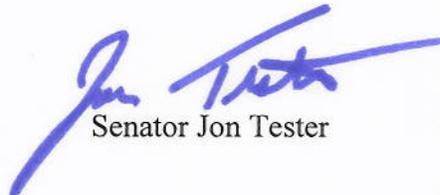
Senator Robert P. Casey Jr.



Senator Mike Johanns



Senator Jim DeMint



Senator Jon Tester



Senator Christopher A. Coons



Senator Ben Nelson



Senator Jeff Sessions



Senator Robert Menendez

Senator Debbie Stabenow

Senator Amy Klobuchar

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin

Senator Mark L. Pryor

Senator John Hoeven

Senator Bill Nelson

Senator Richard Blumenthal

Senator Johnny Isakson

Senator Claire McCaskill

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg

Senator Tom Coburn

Senator Mary L. Landrieu

Senator Mike Lee

Senator Mark R. Warner

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski

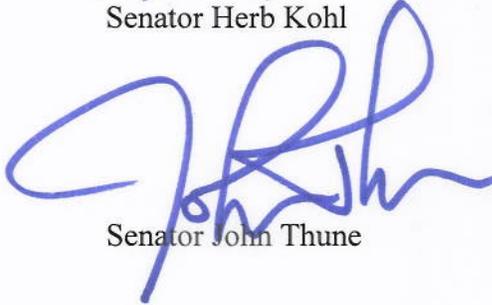
Senator Roger F. Wicker



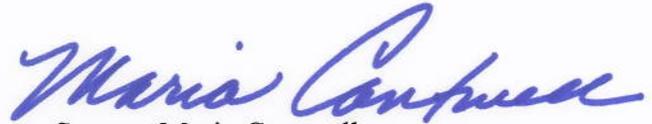
Senator Herb Kohl



Senator Thomas R. Carper



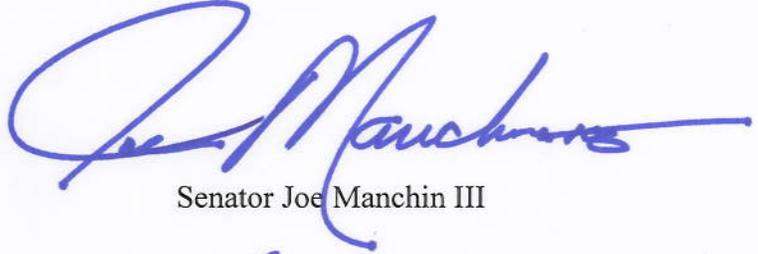
Senator John Thune



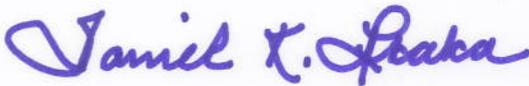
Senator Maria Cantwell



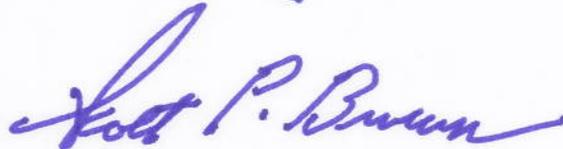
Senator James M. Inhofe



Senator Joe Manchin III



Senator Daniel K. Akaka



Senator Scott P. Brown



Senator Jeanne Shaheen



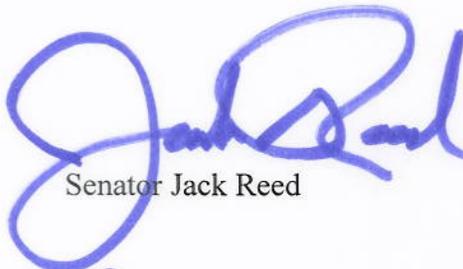
Senator Kelly Ayotte



Senator Michael F. Bennet



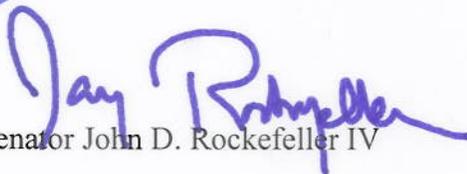
Senator Lamar Alexander



Senator Jack Reed



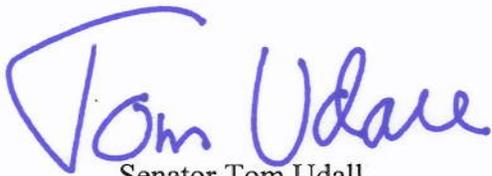
Senator Al Franken



Senator John D. Rockefeller IV



Senator Mark Udall

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Udall". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Senator Tom Udall

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kent Conrad". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Senator Kent Conrad

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Portman". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Senator Rob Portman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat Toomey". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Senator Patrick J. Toomey

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Johnson". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

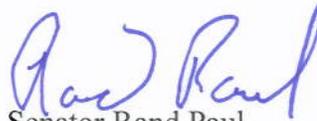
Senator Ronald H. Johnson

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Harkin". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Senator Tom Harkin

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey A. Merkley". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

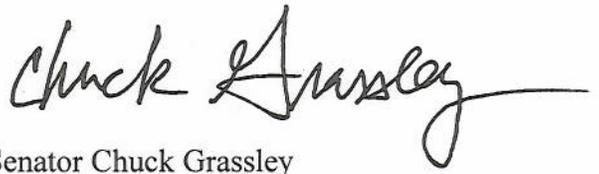
Senator Jeff Merkley

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rand Paul". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Senator Rand Paul

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several sweeping, interconnected strokes.

Senator Richard Burr

A cursive handwritten signature in black ink, with the name 'Chuck Grassley' clearly legible in a fluid, connected script.

Senator Chuck Grassley