

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Help Stop Progress on Iranian Nuclear Program – Oppose the Russia Nuclear Deal

Please join Senators Coleman and Bayh in sending the attached letter to President Bush in opposition to signing a new U.S. – Russia bilateral nuclear cooperation *at this time*, given Moscow's failure to cooperate on thwarting Iran's nuclear gambit. Officials from the State Department have confirmed that the Administration is working to have the President sign this agreement within the next one to two weeks.

The House has already overwhelmingly passed legislation (H.R. 1400) in opposition to this move, and there are 71 co-sponsors to Senate bill 970 which also expresses opposition to enhanced nuclear cooperation with Russia absent more help on Iran.

Senators Coleman and Bayh believe preventing Iran from acquiring the capacity to make nuclear weapons must have highest priority, and that desirable nuclear cooperation with Russia must be subordinate to this larger objective.

Please contact Dahlia Reed (x46843) in Senator Bayh's Office and Ana Navarro (x42695) in Senator Coleman's Office if you would like to co-sign this letter to President Bush.



Norm Coleman
United States Senator



Evan Bayh
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May X, 2008

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

Dear President Bush:

We understand the Administration continues to view an agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation with Russia pursuant to section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2153), as an important element of the U.S.-Russian bilateral relationship. We write you today to express our apprehension and concern at this support for advanced nuclear cooperation with Russia under current circumstances.

During testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on February 13, 2008, Secretary Rice noted that Russia views sensitive trade with Iran in strategic areas such as air defense systems as "legal." In fact, under existing U.S. law – in particular the Iran North Korea and Syria Nonproliferation Act – some Russian companies are already subject to sanctions as a result of their continued exports of advanced conventional weapons to Iran. Taken together, Russia's opposition to effective U.N. sanctions against Iran's nuclear weapons program, ongoing assistance to Iran's ballistic missile programs, exports of fuel to Iran's Bushehr reactor, and its increasingly abrasive foreign policy all give us cause for concern about finalizing an agreement with Russia that would pave the way for the increased commercialization of Russia's nuclear energy sector and could be construed as U.S. approval of its proliferation activities in Iran.

We understand that in spite of these disturbing activities by Russia, on July 3, 2007, a U.S.-Russian "Joint Declaration on Nuclear Energy and Nonproliferation: Joint Action" was announced. The statement accompanying this announcement indicated that you and President Putin "acknowledge with satisfaction the initialing of the bilateral Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the United States of America for cooperation in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy." Further, we have been informed that this agreement is complete and awaiting your signature.

Mr. President, we firmly believe that the finalization of a 123 agreement with Russia at this time could severely undermine our policy with respect to Iran at a critical juncture. Iran recently announced that it is testing advanced centrifuges which could significantly reduce the time it would take for Iran to produce highly enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon. We urge you not to sign or send any 123 agreement with Russia to the Congress until Russia has ended support for Iran's ballistic missile program, provision of advanced conventional weapons and assistance to Iran's nuclear fuel cycle

program, which advances their ability to develop nuclear weapons. Russia must also first demonstrate that it is prepared to cooperate with us to increase meaningful economic pressure on Iran to end its defiance of the UN Security Council's mandatory resolutions to suspend its enrichment of uranium.

Sincerely,