

October 29, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
Chairman
Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban
Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban
Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders of the United States Senate:

We write to urge the swift passage of the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act (S. 1065) now in the Senate. We believe this measure, which passed the House on October 14th, 2009 by a 414-6 margin, has the clear support of the American people and will add to the necessary economic pressure on Iran to change course on its ever-expanding nuclear capabilities.

As governors, we have individually taken steps to address this growing threat by authorizing the divestment of state funds from companies that have economic interests in the Iranian oil and natural gas sectors. Yet with passage of the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act and its "Safe Harbor" provisions, we expect more of our fellow governors may engage in similar efforts, thus dramatically increasing leverage to influence this urgent matter.

While our action is motivated out of fiduciary concern – the companies involved may be exposed to liability under United States law – we are even more mindful of the great national security risk posed by the Iranian possession of nuclear weapons. Should Iran acquire nuclear weapons, the resulting Middle East instability, and threat to U.S. allies and American military forces would be simply unacceptable. We believe that Congressional authorization of this Act will encourage other states to follow our actions.

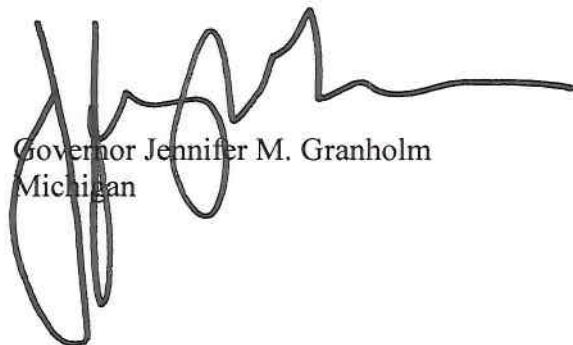
Given the very advanced nature of Iran's nuclear program and its government's nearly quarter century of deception, time is of the essence. If U.S. diplomacy is to succeed, Iran must know that it faces a very bleak economic future if it does not change course.

Passing the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act is an important element in sending that message.

Sincerely,



Governor Tim Pawlenty
Minnesota



Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
Michigan



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
California



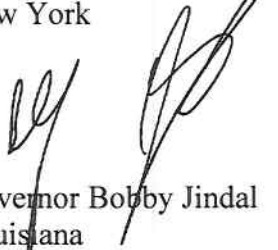
Governor Martin O'Malley
Maryland



Governor David A. Paterson
New York



Governor Bill Ritter, Jr.
Colorado



Governor Bobby Jindal
Louisiana