

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2010

Baroness Catherine Ashton
High Representative for the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi 175
B-1048 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Baroness Ashton:

We are writing to thank you for the new round of sanctions against Iran's energy and financial sectors that the European Union (EU) recently agreed to. We hope these measures will help convince Iran to back down from its nuclear ambitions. We believe they are an important step to avoid armed conflict in the region.

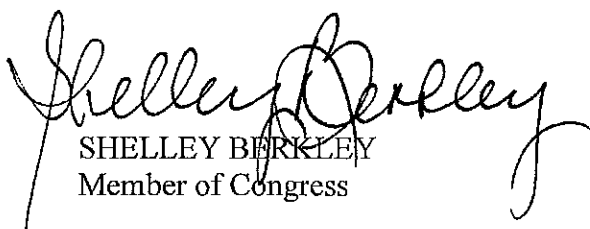
The U.S. and the EU, along with our partners on the UN Security Council, have made good faith efforts to negotiate with the Iranian regime, offering to swap Iran's stockpiles of low-enriched uranium in exchange for fuel rods. This would have allowed Iran a peaceful nuclear energy program, which they claimed was their goal. The Iranian regime, however, rebuffed our overtures and refused to negotiate seriously on their nuclear program, which has made it clear the time has come to enact tough sanctions.

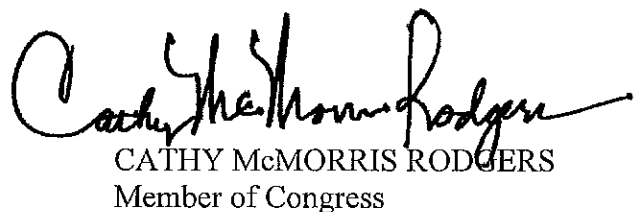
We were, therefore, very heartened to read the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 17 June 2010, in which the EU decided to enact just such sanctions – much like the ones we are working toward enacting in the U.S. – targeting Iran's oil and gas industry as well as dual-use items that could be used as part of a nuclear program. We are pleased new measures will be adopted against Iranian shipping and air cargo companies, and that new visa bans and asset freezes will be imposed on Iran's Revolutionary Guard. These measures are in line with similar measures recently adopted by the Obama Administration, which imposed penalties against entities that are helping Iran evade sanctions and develop its nuclear and missile programs.

We understand the new EU sanctions will now be passed on to technical experts in the EU to write the implementing regulations. We look forward to the conclusions of the next Foreign Affairs Council meeting on 26 July, where we understand the regulations will be adopted.

Thank you once again for this new round of sanctions. We look forward to working with you as we continue our joint efforts to halt Iran's nuclear program.

Sincerely,


SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress


CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS
Member of Congress



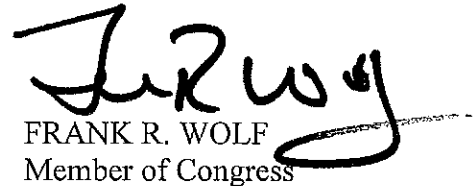
STENY H. HOYER
Majority Leader



DAN BURTON
Member of Congress



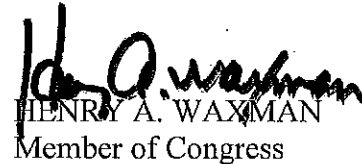
GARY L. ACKERMAN
Member of Congress



FRANK R. WOLF
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress



RUSS CARNAHAN
Member of Congress



ROSCOE G. BARTLETT
Member of Congress



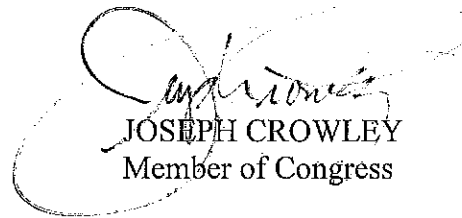
RON KLEIN
Member of Congress



DOUG LAMBORN
Member of Congress



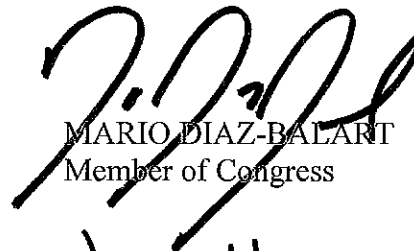
JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress



LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress



MARIO DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress



BRAD ELLSWORTH
Member of Congress



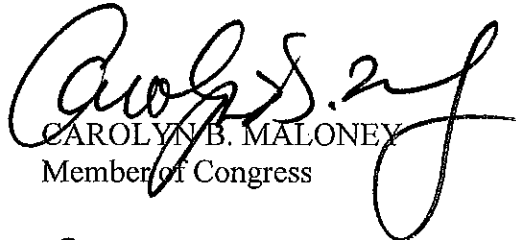
JANE HARMAN
Member of Congress



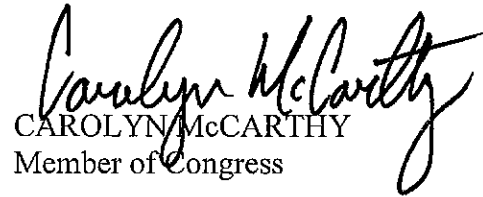
ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



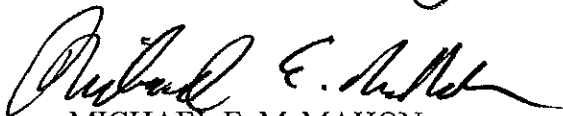
JAMES A. HIMES
Member of Congress



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



CAROLYN MCCARTHY
Member of Congress




MICHAEL E. McMAHON
Member of Congress



SUE WILKINS MYRICK
Member of Congress



JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress

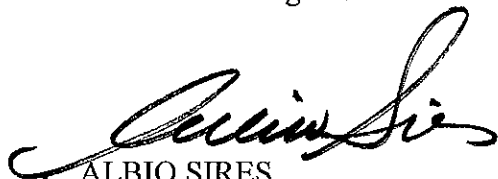


TED POE
Member of Congress



STEVEN R. ROTHMAN
Member of Congress

HEATH SHULER
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress