



November 17, 2011

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0103

Dear Senator Shelby:

Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) has offered an amendment to S 1867, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, to compel the President to sanction the Central Bank of Iran upon enactment. The amendment should be withdrawn or voted down.

- Sanctioning the central bank of a sovereign country is tantamount to declaring war on the entire economy of the country.
- In the case of Iran, a major oil exporter and chair of OPEC, the effect on world oil prices, and the U.S. economy, would be hard to overstate, as the Administration has publicly declared.
- Such a U.S. action would end the multilateral cooperation that the U.S. has achieved, regarding Iran's nuclear activities.
- Both the House and Senate are considering additional sanctions legislation under regular order – a deliberative process that led to passage in 2010 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act (CISADA) and an unprecedented multilateral strategy towards the Iran nuclear issue.

Please contact Richard Sawaya, Director, USA*Engage rsawaya@nftc.org, (202) 464 2024, if you have any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Sawaya".

Richard N. Sawaya
Director, USA* ENGAGE