



January 12, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1233 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0104

Dear Congressman Ryan:

We are writing to urge you to oppose H.R. 3662, the "Iran Terror Financing Act." History demonstrates that if economic sanctions are to work at all, they must be multi-lateral. U.S. unilateral sanctions, on the other hand, only harm U.S. companies and their employees -- to the benefit of their global competitors.

Multi-lateral sanctions are a critical piece of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) reached between Iran and all the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. The JCPOA spells out a *quid pro quo*: Iran meets its commitments regarding its nuclear program and the multi-lateral sanctions will be largely rescinded. Under the JCPOA, U.S. primary and secondary sanctions targeting Iranian non-nuclear activity deemed a threat to national security will remain in force. With exceptions specified in the JCPOA, U.S. companies, including the entire U.S. financial sector, will not be able to compete with their foreign counterparts for commerce in Iran. This divergence was accepted by all signatories to the JCPOA.

It is clear that many in Congress remain opposed to the JCPOA, despite the fact that legislative efforts to block it were unsuccessful. At this point, common sense would indicate that U.S. policy focus on verification of the JCPOA's terms and conditions and Iran's compliance with them. H.R. 3662, in fact, would move in the opposite direction.

Make no mistake. Legislation that would contravene the provisions of the JCPOA will only open a gulf between the U.S. and all the other signatories to the agreement. A united front resulted in the agreement. *De facto* U.S. abrogation of the JCPOA will exacerbate the hydra-headed security challenge that the Middle East poses to the rest of the world. As one Congressman, otherwise a severe critic of the JCPOA has observed, legislation such as H.R. 3662 is bait and switch.

It is ironic that such an approach mirrors the actions of factions in Iran also intended to subvert the JCPOA -- those who have amassed power in Iran's economy thanks to the sanctions.

USA\*Engage and the NFTC urge Congress to honor a deal that is in fact a deal with clearly-articulated scope, limits and reciprocal responsibilities. The other members of the U.N. National Security Council will do so. If Iran chooses to renege, we and they have warrant to renege as well.

We urge you to vote against HR 3662 and any other legislation designed to subvert the JCPOA.

Yours truly,

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Vice President  
USA\*Engage

William A. Reinsch  
President  
National Foreign Trade Council