Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As Members of Congress who share your unequivocal commitment to preventing a nuclear-armed Iran, we urge you to pursue the potential opportunity presented by Iran's recent presidential election by reinvigorating U.S. efforts to secure a negotiated nuclear agreement.

As you know, on June 14 the Iranian people elected Hassan Rouhani president with over 50 percent of the vote in the first round, overcoming repression and intimidation by the Iranian government to cast their ballots in favor of reform. Dr. Rouhani campaigned on the promise to "pursue a policy of reconciliation and peace" and has since promised "constructive interaction with the outside world." As Iran's former lead nuclear negotiator, he has also publicly expressed the view that obtaining a nuclear weapon would run counter to Iran's strategic interests and has been critical of the nuclear "extremism" of outgoing President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

We are mindful of the limitations of the Iranian presidency within the country's political system, of the fact that previous Iranian presidents elected on platforms of moderation have failed to deliver on promised reforms, and of the mixed signals that Dr. Rouhani himself has sent regarding Iran's nuclear ambitions. It remains to be seen whether his election will indeed bring significant change with regard to Iran's relations with the outside world. His government's actions will certainly speak louder than his words.

Even so, we believe it would be a mistake not to test whether Dr. Rouhani's election represents a real opportunity for progress toward a verifiable, enforceable agreement on Iran's nuclear program that ensures the country does not acquire a nuclear weapon. In order to test this proposition, it will be prudent for the United States to utilize all diplomatic tools to reinvigorate ongoing nuclear talks. In addition, bilateral and multilateral sanctions must be calibrated in such a way that they induce significant and verifiable concessions from Iran at the negotiating table in exchange for their potential relaxation.

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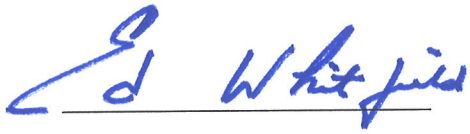
We must also be careful not to preempt this potential opportunity by engaging in actions that delegitimize the newly elected president and weaken his standing relative to hardliners within the regime who oppose his professed "policy of reconciliation and peace." Likewise, it will be critical for the United States to continue its efforts to foster unprecedented international cooperation on this issue so that the international community remains united in its opposition to Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon.

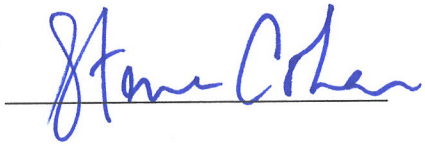
We look forward to working with your Administration on this important issue in the months ahead.

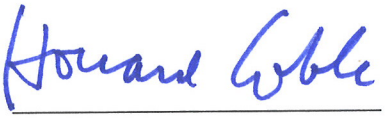
Sincerely,

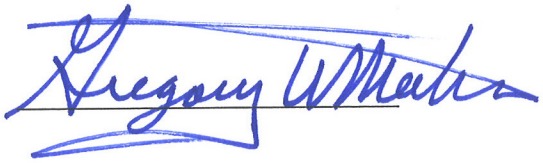
CHARLES DENT
Member of Congress

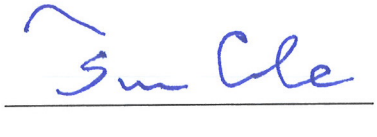
DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress

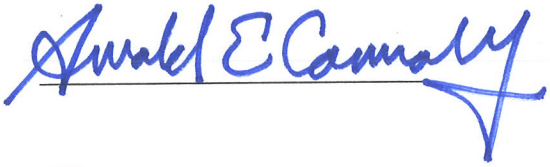


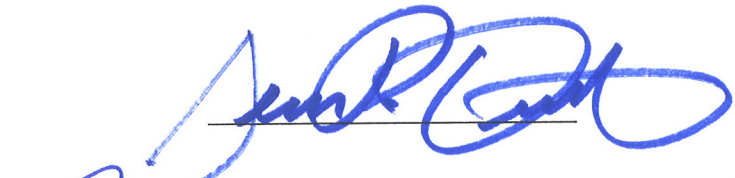


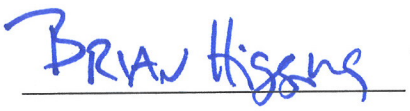


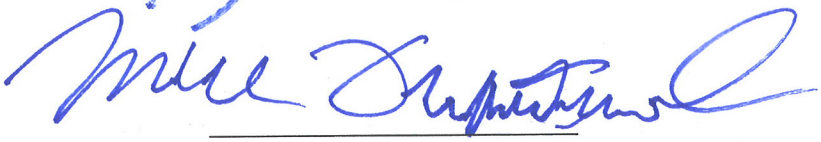


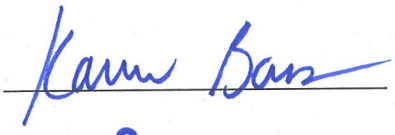


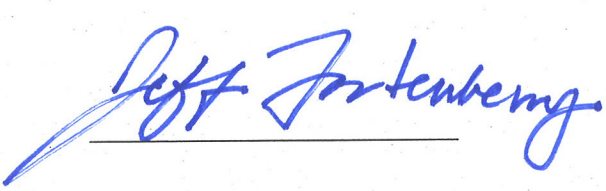


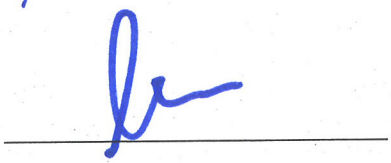












Michael H. Simon

Bill Foster

Richard Hanna

Jim Campbell

Walter B. Jones

Lucille Roybal-Allard

[illegible]

Elijah E. Cummings

Tom Petri

John F. Tierney

[illegible]

Susan Kaane

Glenn G. Thompson

Jim Moran

Peter J. Visclosky

Bobby L. Rush

Barbara Lee

Tony Cardenas

John A. Hinkel

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Kyrsten Sinema

Ed Perlmutter

Matthew A. Cartwright

Raul M. Grijalva

Mark Takano

Jan B. Larson

Dave Loebsack

Niki Tsongas

Bobby M. Scott

Chris Pearce

Michael E. Capuano

Tim Ryan

Ron Kind

Carol Shea-Porter

Grace F. Napolitano

Michael M. Honda

Willie L. Emmart

Ed Pastor

Maxine Waters

John J. Duncan Jr.

Richard Shelby

Wm. Lacy Clay

Louise M. Slaughter

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

Ben R. Lujan

Henry Cuellar

Sanford D. Bishop Jr.

John Conyers

Robert E. Kelly

Rosa L. DeLauro

Phil Rahall

Chaka Fattah

Bill Pascrell Jr.

Charles B. Rangel

Diana DeGette

Beto O'Rourke

Lois Capps

Marcy Kaptur

Leila Jackson Lee

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Jim Matheson

Ann McLane Kuster

Jim Hines

Denny Heck

Donna F. Edwards

Joe Courtney

Rick Larsen

Bruce Braley

Sam Farr

Cheri Bustos

Jim McDermott

Ron Barber

Bobby Scott

Joe Pitts

Rush Holt

Tammy Duckworth

Elizabeth H. Esty

Paul Tonko

Emanuel Cleaver

Adam Smith

Suzanne Bonamici

Pat Tiberi

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Donald M. Payne, Jr.

James E. Clyburn

Alcee L. Hastings

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson

List of Cosigners:

1. Dent, Charles (PA-15)
2. *Price, David (NC-04)*
3. *Barber, Ron (AZ-02)*
4. *Bass, Karen (CA-37)*
5. *Becerra, Xavier (CA-34)*
6. *Bera, Ami (CA-07)*
7. *Bishop, Sanford (GA-02)*
8. *Bishop, Tim (NY-01)*
9. *Blumenauer, Earl (OR-03)*
10. *Bonamici, Suzanne (OR-01)*
11. *Bordallo, Madeleine (GU)*
12. *Braley, Bruce (IA-01)*
13. *Bustos, Cheri (IL-17)*
14. Campbell, John (CA-45)
15. *Capps, Lois (CA-24)*
16. *Capuano, Michael (MA-07)*
17. *Cárdenas, Tony (CA-29)*
18. *Carson, André (IN-07)*
19. *Cartwright, Matthew (PA-17)*
20. *Christensen, Donna (VI)*
21. *Clay, William Lacy (MO-01)*
22. *Cleaver, Emmanuel (MO-05)*
23. *Clyburn, James (SC-06)*
24. Coble, Howard (NC-06)
25. *Cohen, Steve (TN-09)*
26. Cole, Tom (OK-04)
27. *Connolly, Gerald (VA-11)*
28. *Conyers, John (MI-13)*
29. *Courtney, Joe (CT-02)*
30. *Cuellar, Henry (TX-28)*
31. *Cummings, Elijah (MD-07)*
32. *Davis, Danny (IL-07)*
33. *DeFazio, Peter (OR-04)*
34. *DeGette, Diana (CO-01)*
35. *DeLauro, Rosa (CT-03)*
36. *DelBene, Suzan (WA-01)*
37. *Dingell, John (MI-12)*
38. *Doggett, Lloyd (TX-35)*
39. *Doyle, Michael (PA-14)*
40. *Duckworth, Tammy* (IL-08)
41. Duffy, Sean (WI-07)
42. Duncan Jr., John (TN-02)
43. *Edwards, Donna (MD-04)*
44. *Ellison, Keith (MN-05)*
45. *Enyart, William (IL-12)*
46. *Eshoo, Anna (CA-18)*
47. *Esty, Elizabeth (CT-05)*
48. *Farr, Sam (CA-20)*
49. *Fattah, Chaka (PA-02)*
50. Fitzpatrick, Michael (PA-08)
51. Fortenberry, Jeff (NE-01)
52. *Foster, Bill (IL-11)*
53. *Garamendi, John (CA-03)*
54. *Grijalva, Raúl (AZ-03)*
55. Grimm, Michael (NY-11)
56. *Gutierrez, Luis (IL-04)*
57. Hanna, Richard (NY-22)
58. *Hastings, Alcee (FL-20)*
59. *Heck, Denny (WA-10)*
60. *Higgins, Brian (NY-26)*
61. *Himes, James* (CT-04)
62. *Holt, Rush (NJ-12)*
63. *Honda, Michael (CA-17)*
64. *Jackson-Lee, Sheila (TX-18)*
65. *Johnson, Eddie B. (TX-30)*
66. *Johnson, Hank (GA-04)*
67. Jones, Walter (NC-03)
68. *Kaptur, Marcy (OH-09)*
69. *Kelly, Robin (IL-02)*
70. *Kind, Ron (WI-03)*
71. *Kuster, Ann (NH-02)*
72. *Larsen, Rick (WA-02)*
73. *Larson, John (CT-01)*
74. *Lee, Barbara* (CA-13)
75. *Lewis, John (GA-05)*
76. *Loebsack, David (IA-02)*
77. *Lofgren, Zoe (CA-19)*
78. *Lújan, Ben Ray (NM-03)*
79. *Lujan Grisham, Michelle (NM-01)*
80. *Matheson, Jim (UT-04)*
81. *McCollum, Betty* (MN-04)
82. *McDermott, Jim (WA-07)*
83. *McGovern, James P. (MA-02)*
84. *Meeks, Gregory W. (NY-05)*

85. *Miller, George (CA-11)*
86. *Moore, Gwen (WI-04)*
87. *Moran, James P. (VA-08)*
88. *Napolitano, Grace F. (CA-32)*
89. *Neal, Richard E. (MA-01)*
90. *Nolan, Richard (MN-08)*
91. *Norton, Eleanor Holmes (DC)*
92. Nugent, Richard B. (FL-11)
93. *O'Rourke, Beto (TX-16)*
94. *Pascrell, Bill, Jr. (NJ-09)*
95. *Pastor, Ed (AZ-07)*
96. *Payne, Donald M., Jr. (NJ-10)*
97. *Perlmutter, Ed (CO-07)*
98. *Peters, Scott H. (CA-52)*
99. *Peterson, Collin C. (MN-07)*
100. Petri, Thomas E, (WI-06)
101. *Pingree, Chellie (ME-01)*
102. *Pocan, Mark (WI-02)*
103. *Polis, Jared (CO-02)*
104. *Rahall, Nick J., II (WV-03)*
105. *Rangel, Charles B. (NY-13)*
106. *Roybal-Allard, Lucille (CA-40)*
107. *Ruiz, Raúl (CA-36)*
108. Runyan, Jon (NJ-03)
109. *Rush, Bobby L. (IL-01)*
110. *Ryan, Tim (OH-13)*
111. *Sablan, Gregario Kilili Camacho (MP)*
112. *Schakowsky, Janice D. (IL-09)*
113. *Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" (VA-03)*
114. *Serrano, José E. (NY-15)*
115. *Shea-Porter, Carol (NH-01)*
116. *Sinema, Kyrsten (AZ-09)*
117. *Slaughter, Louise McIntosh (NY-25)*
118. *Speier, Jackie (CA-14)*
119. *Takano, Mark (CA-41)*
120. Thompson, Glenn (PA-05)
121. *Thompson, Mike* (CA-05)
122. Tiberi, Patrick (OH-12)
123. *Tierney, John* (MA-06)
124. *Tonko, Paul* (NY-20)
125. *Tsongas, Niki* (MA-03)
126. *Visclosky, Peter* (IN-01)
127. *Walz, Timothy* (MN-01)
128. *Waters, Maxine* (CA-43)
129. *Welch, Peter* (VT-At Large)
130. Whitfield, Ed (KY-01)
131. *Yarmuth, John* (KY-03)