

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 24, 2013

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters
760 United Nations Plaza
New York City, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

We write to urge you to demand the removal of the Islamic Republic of Iran from serving as Chairman of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament (CD) from May 27 to June 23. The CD is intended to focus on the “cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; prevention of nuclear war” and “effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.” The United States agrees that nuclear disarmament is an important goal to make the world a safer place. However, Iran’s continued pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability, let alone its grotesque human rights record and role as a leading state sponsor of terrorism, should disqualify it from presiding over the CD.

Over the past decade, the Iranian nuclear program has become a growing concern to the international community. Iran prevents the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from inspecting many of its facilities, including Parchin, which the United Nations believes “is a logical site to conduct high explosive work related to nuclear weapons development.” Relentless diplomatic efforts, including the recent P5+1 talks, have produced little if any tangible breakthroughs. And despite international sanctions and condemnation from the United States, United Nations, European Union and others, Iran refuses to abandon its uranium enrichment program. A recent IAEA report confirmed that “[c]ontrary to the relevant resolutions of the Board of Governors and the Security Council, Iran has not suspended its enrichment related activities.” In April 2013, IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano acknowledged that “Iran’s activities could be continuing up until now” and that they possess “credible information that Iran continued its [nuclear] activities beyond 2003.” The regime’s behavior fails to comply with the Safeguard Agreements of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and should disqualify Iran from presiding over the CD.

As you know, a nuclear Iran would ignite a nuclear arms race in the Middle East, further destabilizing the region and posing an imminent threat to our troops and allies overseas. Iran continues to stockpile ballistic missiles and arm its proxies— Hamas and Hezbollah—along with the Syrian regime. And the Iranian regime remains one of the world’s most flagrant human rights violators.

By allowing Iran to chair this Conference, the United Nations is legitimizing a tyrannical regime committed to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction while delegitimizing the United Nations as a force to contain nuclear weapons. Indeed, a conference seeking nuclear

transparency and disarmament will be led by a country operating a dangerous and covert nuclear program that threatens global nuclear instability. Therefore, we urge you to demand that Iran be replaced with a nation genuinely committed to nuclear non-proliferation.

Respectfully,




Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



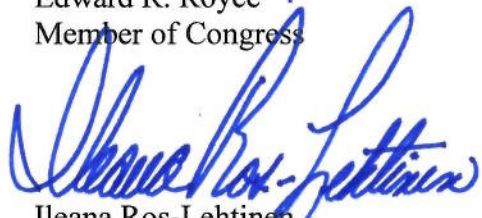
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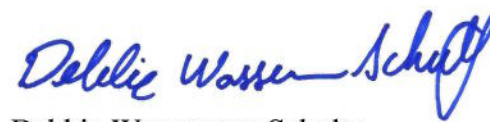
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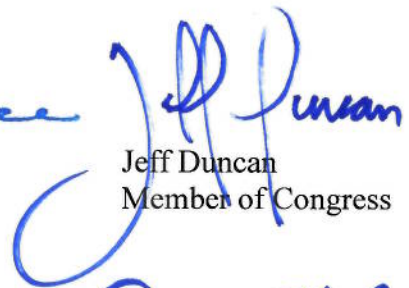
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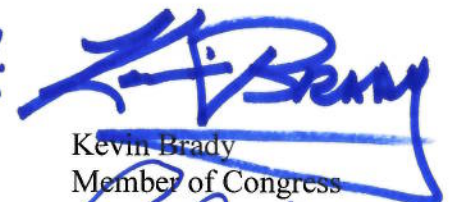

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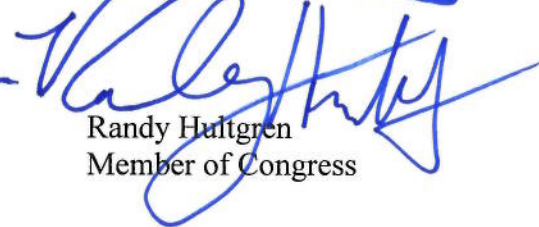

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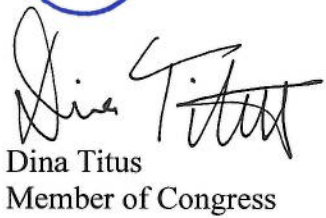
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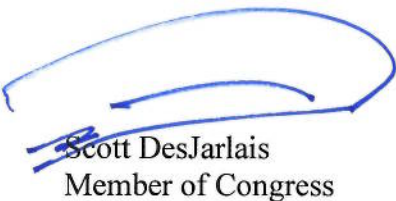
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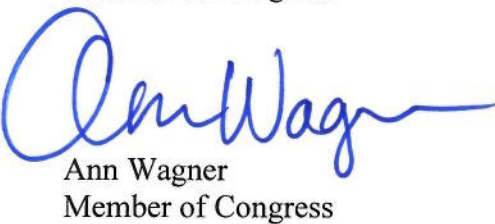
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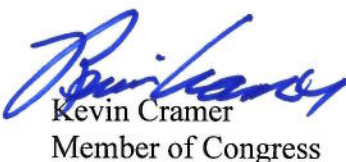

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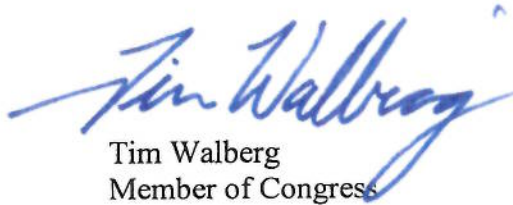
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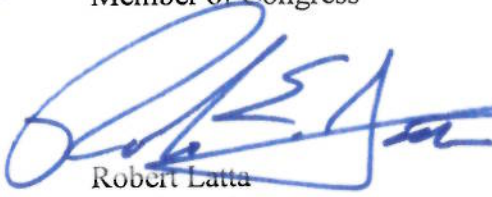
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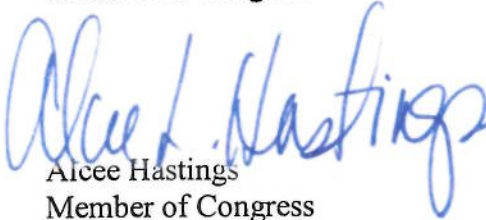
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Aaron Schock
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cc: Angela Kane, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs