

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Ander Crenshaw
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jose Serrano
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Crenshaw and Ranking Member Serrano,

We the undersigned are requesting language be included in the FY 2017 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill regarding the Administration's actions to implement the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the Iran nuclear deal. In Section 25 of the JCPOA, the Administration has stated that the United States will, "actively encourage officials at the state or local level to take into account the changes in the U.S. policy reflected in the lifting of sanctions under this JCPOA and to refrain from actions inconsistent with this change in policy." The Administration has laid out their plans to essentially lobby state and local governments to either repeal their existing laws regarding doing business with Iran, or block them from passing new laws.

As the JCPOA is not a treaty, it does not have the force of law, nor is it binding to the states. The existing legal framework under which states have passed restrictions on doing business with Iran is still in place, and states are fully within their rights to enact new restrictions, or maintain current laws. These laws were put into place to aid the families of terror victims by combatting trade and funding of sponsors of terrorism. As such, we are requesting that the Subcommittee include language preventing the Administration from using taxpayer dollars to lobby state and local governments on Iranian sanctions. Our proposed language is below:

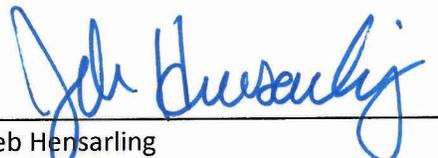
No such funds may be used for the influencing of state legislatures, governors, or local legislative bodies for the purposes of 1) repealing existing laws pertaining to restrictions against doing business with the Islamic Republic of Iran, any state-owned entities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, or any individual or entity based in the Islamic Republic of Iran, or 2) opposing any new law pertaining to restrictions against doing business with the Islamic Republic of Iran, any state-owned entities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, or any individual or entity based in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Administration must act in accordance with current law. The JCPOA does not have the force of law, and the Administration should not be able to use taxpayer dollars to influence state or local governments to modify their policies towards Iran. We appreciate the Subcommittee's consideration of this proposed language, and urge its inclusion in the bill text.

Sincerely,



Steve Russell
Member of Congress



Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



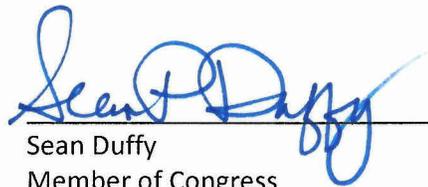
Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



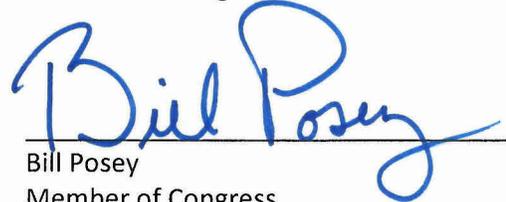
Diane Black
Member of Congress



Sean Duffy
Member of Congress



Pete Olson
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



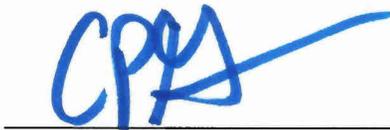
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



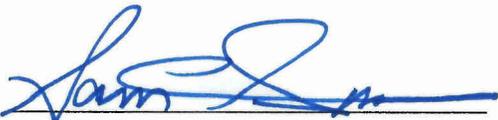
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



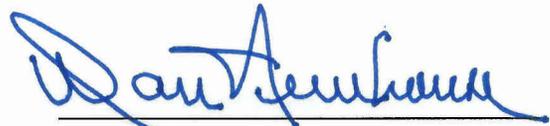
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Chris Gibson
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



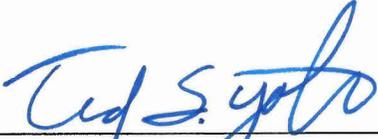
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress