

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 4, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to you just weeks after our nation's great ally was suddenly and barbarically attacked by Hamas terrorists—proxies funded, trained, and equipped by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The pure evil inflicted on the Israeli people on October 7, 2023, will live in infamy as one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in world history.

Iran is the largest state sponsor of terrorism across the globe, and its stated objective is to wipe Israel off the face of the planet. It is estimated that Iran provides \$700 million dollars annually to Hezbollah and \$350 million annually to Hamas. Additionally, Iranian-backed terrorist proxies in Syria and Iraq have received substantial new financial support, including double digit percentage increases to the salaries paid to affiliated individuals this year alone.

Since 1995, Congressionally enacted laws and Presidential executive orders have provided the Treasury Department with authorities to impose significant sanctions on Iranian proxy groups. However, enacted sanctions are only effective if the Treasury Department proactively and continuously enforces them. In recent years, we have seen the direct consequences of ineffective sanctions enforcement: Iran's economic productivity rebounded while the regime augmented its on-the-books military spending, and its access to foreign currency reserves increased ten-fold.

Steel is one of Iran's most lucrative export markets. The World Steel Association announced¹ in September 2023 that Iran is the 10th largest steel producer in the world. In 2020, the United States sanctioned Iran's metals industries and steel producers, massively impacting their exports in 2021. The enforcement of these sanctions decreased Iranian steel exports from 9 million metric tons in 2020 to 4.2 million tons in 2021². However, Iranian steel exports rebounded to 10 million tons in 2022. This correlates to the United States reengaging with Iran to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), along with a decrease in enforcement of existing sanctions by the Treasury Department.

¹ "Iran Steel Exports up 21% in 7 months," 1 Islamic Republic News Agency, November 5, 2023. (<https://en.irna.ir/news/85281238/Iran-steel-products-export-up-21-in-7-months>)

² Maryam Sinaee, "Iran Losing Steel Exports Markets, Industry Insider Says," Iran International, September 7, 2022. (<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202209078400>)

Letter to President Biden regarding Iran steel sanctions

December 4, 2023

Page 2 of 4

Sanctions enforcement, when executed properly, is an effective tool against regimes that do not share our values and, as in Iran's case, have a proven track record of sponsoring terrorism. In this instance, relaxing sanctions enforcement resulted in economic enrichment for the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism.

We urge your Administration to enforce all Iran-related sanctions at your disposal, to include secondary sanctions on other countries who seek economic engagement with Iran. We owe it to the innocent children, women, and men who were savagely beaten, raped, tortured, and killed on October 7, 2023.

Sincerely,



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator

Letter to President Biden regarding Iran steel sanctions

December 4, 2023

Page 3 of 4



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



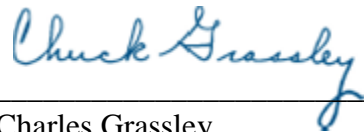
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United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



Charles Grassley
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



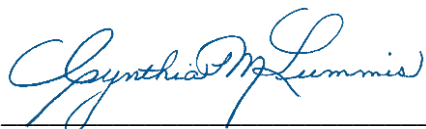
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United States Senator



John Kennedy
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Cynthia M. Lummis
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Jerry Moran
United States Senator

Letter to President Biden regarding Iran steel sanctions

December 4, 2023

Page 4 of 4



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Tim Scott
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator

Cc:

The Honorable Antony Blinken
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The Honorable Janet Yellen
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