

IRAN

Iran's consistent threats against the United States and our allies are something that should be taken very seriously by the international community. Ensuring this regime does not obtain nuclear weapons is vital to the safety and security of the United States, the Middle East, and especially the State of Israel.

There has been little doubt that Iran seeks to build nuclear weapon capabilities against the expressed wishes of the greater global community. This suspicion was confirmed Friday, September 25, 2009, with the public disclosure of an underground uranium enrichment plant near the city of Qom. Iran continued to erode international confidence on Monday, September 28, 2009, by test-firing medium-range missiles with ranges up to 1,250 miles – enough to reach Israel.

As a nation that funds terrorist activities and shamelessly uses the world stage as a forum to call for “death to America” and proclaim that Israel should be “wiped off the map,” Iran's nuclear ambitions are simply unacceptable. For these reasons, I have supported the following legislation:

Important legislation regarding Iran in the 111th Congress

Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2009 (H.R. 1208) – Would amend the Iran Freedom Support Act to maintain specified U.S. sanctions with respect to Iran until the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that Iran has verifiably dismantled its WMD programs and ceased its support for international terrorism.

Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009 (H.R. 1327) – Would state that it is the policy of the United States to support the decision of state and local governments and educational institutions to divest, and prohibit the investment of assets they control in persons that have investments of more than \$20 million in Iran's energy sector.

Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act of 2009 (H.R. 2194)- This would give the President the power to impose sanctions on any person who has with actual knowledge, made an investment of \$20 million or more that directly and significantly contributed to Iran's ability to develop its petroleum resources. Despite Iran's vast oil reserves, the country must import about 40% refined petroleum products to meet domestic consumption needs. Imposing restrictions on Iran's ability to import refined petroleum and its ability to create a domestic refining capacity could cripple the Iranian economy. A Discharge Petition has been introduced, H.Res. 460, which would bring the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act directly to the House floor for a vote if it receives 218 signatures (a majority of Members of the House).

Support for the Iranian Peoples' Struggle for Freedom (H.Res. 549) – On June 12, 2009, Iran held presidential elections that resulted in the incumbent, President Mahmoud Admadinejad, winning through what has been viewed as fraudulent election tactics. The credibility of the election was immediately called into question and there was an outpour of frustration and dissatisfaction through daily demonstrations. Demonstrators were in turn met with violent government suppression. H.Res. 549 expresses Congressional support for all Iranian citizens in their struggle for freedom, condemns the ongoing violence against demonstrators, and affirms the universality of individual rights and the importance of democratic and fair elections.

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