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.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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

Beto O'Rourke

Lois Capps

Marcy Kaptur

Leila Jackson Lee

Danny K. Davis

Mike Doyle

George Miller

Jim Matheson

Ann McLane Kuster

Jim Hines

Denny Heck

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)