



September 11, 2015

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

The Texas Conservative Coalition (TCC) supports your principled position on state-level sanctions against Iran. Regardless of whether or not the deal stands, you have our absolute support in maintaining the sanctions that the Legislature passed in 2013 and we will assist you in encouraging private companies to do the same.

The President's agreement is troubling for several reasons. It does not put an end to Iran's nuclear ambitions, compel Iran to renounce terrorism, require it to release hostages, or recognize Israel's right to exist. Furthermore, the agreement will allow Iran to access frozen assets, which could be used to fund terroristic activities and proxy wars, a point that the President has publicly conceded. Thank you for publicly calling on Congress to oppose the President's deal and for taking a stand on public investments in Iran.

Directly pertinent to state policy, the President inserted the following stipulation into the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA):

25. If a law at the state or local level in the United States is preventing the implementation of the sanctions lifting as specified in this JCPOA, the United States will take appropriate steps, taking into account all available authorities, with a view to achieving such implementation. 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.

This provision directly speaks to Texas, one of twenty-five states which has a law prohibiting state investments in Iran and companies doing business in Iran. While we recognize and respect the President's prominence in the conduct of foreign affairs, the aforementioned provision is troubling because it was inserted without consultation with the states and without regard to Iran ending its nuclear or terroristic activities. Moreover, the Administration's position is contrary to the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, which allows states to impose sanctions. The statute expressly states that no federal laws or regulations preempt actions taken by the states under the Act. This should leave no doubt that states have the prerogative to direct their investments away from companies that do business with Iran. TCC agrees with you in continuing prohibiting public investment in Iran.

The President's deal makes it more likely that Iran will manufacture nuclear weapons in the long-term, but in the near term, the lifting of sanctions allows an infusion of funding that will be used to purchase lethal conventional weapons, as well as finance terrorism and proxy wars. Texas cannot be complicit in funding or aiding a regime which refuses to renounce nuclear ambitions nor terrorism, and which has abducted and killed American civilians and servicemen. As you have pointed out, the deal is also fundamentally at odds with Texas's support for Israel.

Thank you for your actions. TCC supports you on this matter of great importance.

Sincerely,



Senator Paul Bettencourt



Senator Donna Campbell



Senator Bob Hall



Senator Kelly Hancock



Senator Don Huffines



Senator Larry Taylor



Senator Van Taylor



Representative Charles "Doc" Anderson



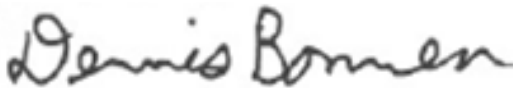
Representative Rodney Anderson



Representative Trent Ashby



Representative Cecil Bell Jr.



Representative Dennis Bonnen



Representative Greg Bonnen



Representative Cindy Burkett



Representative DeWayne Burns



Representative Angie Chen Button



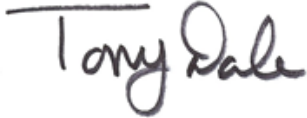
Representative Giovanni Capriglione



Representative Byron Cook



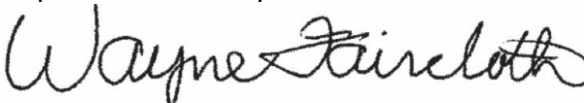
Representative Myra Crownover



Representative Tony Dale



Representative Gary Elkins



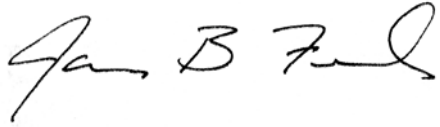
Representative Wayne Faircloth



Representative Pat Fallon



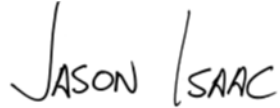
Representative Dan Flynn



Representative James Frank




Representative Patricia Harless



Representative Jason Isaac



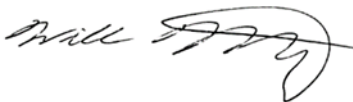
Representative Phil King



Representative Jodie Laubenberg



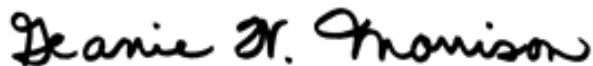
Representative Jeff Leach



Representative Will Metcalf



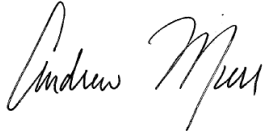
Representative Rick Miller



Representative Geanie Morrison



Representative Jim Murphy



Representative Andrew Murr



Representative Tan Parker



Representative Dennis Paul



Representative Larry Phillips



Representative Matt Rinaldi



Representative Kenneth Sheets




Representative Ron Simmons



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