

# 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 announced<sup>1</sup> in September 2023 that Iran is the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 2021<sup>2</sup>. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> "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>)

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

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,



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Katie Boyd Britt  
United States Senator



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John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator



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Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



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John Boozman  
United States Senator



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Mike Braun  
United States Senator



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Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



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Tom Cotton  
United States Senator



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Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator

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Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



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Steve Daines  
United States Senator



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Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



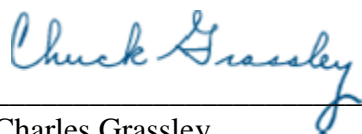
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Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



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Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator



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Charles Grassley  
United States Senator



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Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator



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John Hoeven  
United States Senator



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Hyde-Smith  
United States Senator



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Ron Johnson  
United States Senator



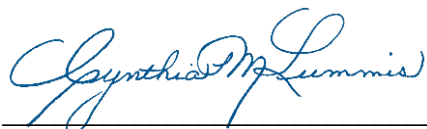
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John Kennedy  
United States Senator



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James Lankford  
United States Senator



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Cynthia M. Lummis  
United States Senator



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Jerry Moran  
United States Senator

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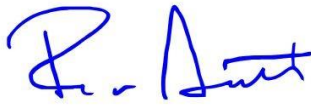
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Pete Ricketts  
United States Senator



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Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



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Rick Scott  
United States Senator



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Tim Scott  
United States Senator



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Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



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John Thune  
United States Senator



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Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



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Tommy Tuberville  
United States Senator



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Todd Young  
United States Senator

Cc:

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Janet Yellen  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220