

From: The Honorable Robert Pittenger

Sent By: clark.fonda@mail.house.gov

Date: 1/5/2016

Dear Colleague:

In the wake of the recent diplomatic actions taken by Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE, Kuwait, and Sudan against Iran, I invite you to join me in a letter to Secretary Kerry expressing concerns that U.S. foreign policy will align with Iran in this crisis in an effort to save and justify the Iran deal.

As Members of Congress, we cannot allow this administration to abandon Middle East allies to promote misguided policies with Iran.

Attached is the letter text. Please contact Clark Fonda (clark.fonda@mail.house.gov) on my staff if you wish to sign.

Sincerely,

Robert Pittenger

Member of Congress

Chairman, Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare

****Letter Text:**

Dear Secretary Kerry:

As Members of Congress, we write to express our continued concerns over the direction of our foreign policy towards Iran.

On multiple occasions in October and November 2015, it was reported that the Iranian government conducted illegal tests of its new medium range ballistic missile. These tests directly challenge American access to the Strait of Hormuz.

More recently, news reports indicate that Saudi Arabia, along with Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Sudan, have reduced or ceased diplomatic ties with Iran over an international incident that stems from concerns over Iran's continued support of illicit terrorist activities. These diplomatic actions come only months after Saudi Arabia assembled a coalition of over 30 Islamic countries to combat global terrorism.

We await your official response to the actions taken by Saudi Arabia and others against Iran. Consistent with Iran's actions in the past, they continue to abrogate prevailing agreements in

pursuit of their objectives. The misguided judgment by the administration has emboldened Iran and fostered an expansionary role as a state-sponsor of terror.

Regarding the illegal missile tests, it is untenable that the administration recently reversed its plans to impose sanctions on Iran for its missile tests that clearly violate U.N. Security Council Resolutions 1929 and 2231. We view your response towards their missile tests as a precursor to a reaction that favors Iran after the diplomatic fallout that occurred with Saudi Arabia.

Strategically, this administration has created a scenario where foreign policy decision-making is based solely on justifying the competence of the Iran deal. The United States appears unwilling to leverage regional momentum against an Iranian government that has spent decades supporting terrorism and other anti-American policies.

As you are well aware, the Iranian government over the past several years has been accused of funding, arming, training, and giving sanctuary to U.S.-designated terrorists. Many Middle Eastern governments are taking unprecedented diplomatic actions against Iran. We believe that your adherence to the Iran deal will place U.S. foreign diplomacy on the side of Iran. This comes at a time where many of our regional allies, including Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, have spoken out against Iran's support of terror organizations and the oppressive Assad regime.

At a critical moment for U.S. foreign policy, we hope that you will reconsider your strategic alignment with the Iranian government and give full support to our Middle Eastern allies.

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