March 22, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We write you today with grave concerns regarding the ongoing nuclear discussions with Iran and their potential impacts on our partner nations around the world. Specifically, we are deeply concerned about reports that the Biden Administration intends to remove the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) within the confines of a new Iran Nuclear Deal. We are united in strong opposition to any move to legitimize the IRGC’s reckless, destabilizing, and antisemitic actions throughout the Middle East.

The IRGC continues to actively participate in acts of terror and destabilizing actions in the region—particularly against one of our closest allies, Israel. It is also a chief supporter and enabler of other FTOs and insurgent groups in the region. These organizations include, but are not limited to: Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Houthis insurgency. The IRGC’s actions have led to decades of instability and conflict across the Middle East and the group is responsible for countless deaths, including more than 600 U.S. troops during the occupation of Iraq.

It is critical that we stand by our allies and partner nations and ensure that the IRGC is not given the benefit of removal of sanctions by delisting them as a FTO. This would reward them with greater freedom to increase their malign activities. Additionally, delisting the IRGC as a FTO would significantly bolster their financial resources. Many foreign companies abstain from conducting transactions with the IRGC to gain access to the U.S. market, but would no longer be subject to such restrictions.

Iran is the leading state sponsor of terror and continues to be the greatest threat to regional stability and our ally Israel. It is unconscionable that the United States should fail to exert maximum pressure on an evil and malign organization like the IRGC. We strongly urge against any decision that would legitimize the IRGC and allow them to further threaten democracy & freedom around the world.

Sincerely,

C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress
Jim Banks  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress

Madison Cawthorn  
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress

Ted Budd  
Member of Congress

Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress

Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress

Scott Fitzgerald  
Member of Congress

Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress

Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress

Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress

Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Chip Roy  
Member of Congress

David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress

Billy Long  
Member of Congress
Randy Weber
Member of Congress

Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress

Nancy Mace
Member of Congress

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress

Jody Hice
Member of Congress

August Pfluger
Member of Congress

Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress

Mike Garcia
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

Andrew Clyde
Member of Congress

Ben Cline
Member of Congress

Darrell Issa
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

David Kustoff
Member of Congress

David McKinley
Member of Congress
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress

Charles "Chuck" Fleischmann
Member of Congress

Rob Wittman
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress

William R. Timmons, IV
Member of Congress

Mariannette Miller-Meeks
Member of Congress

Ronny Jackson
Member of Congress

Lance Gooden
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson
Member of Congress

Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress
Mike Carey  
Member of Congress  

Eric A. “Rick” Crawford  
Member of Congress  

S/  
Troy Nehls  
Member of Congress  

Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress  

Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress