

Oppose Efforts to Undermine the Iran Nuclear Agreement

From: The Honorable Earl Blumenauer

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Dear Colleague:

This month, we mark the first anniversary of an historic agreement between Iran and six major world powers. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was designed to force Iran to back away from the nuclear threshold and prevent it from acquiring nuclear weapons of mass destruction – an outcome that everyone agreed would be disastrous.

Instead of sober reflection on the success of the agreement, where we are, and where we're going, we will instead spend this week debating legislation designed to have the United States break the terms of the agreement. In a very dangerous world, this agreement makes us a little bit safer. Undermining the JCPOA would be a mistake of tragic proportions.

Today, nearly 14,000 centrifuges have been removed from service and placed under international supervision. Iran has ended all uranium enrichment and removed nuclear material from its once secret facility at Fordow. It's reduced its stockpile of enriched uranium from 12,000 kg, with a purity as high as 5%, to only 300 kg, with a purity of no more than 3.67%. The core of the heavy water reactor in Arak has been filled with concrete. So far, Iran has adhered to the agreement. If, however, it reneges, Iran is currently incapable of developing a nuclear weapon for at least one year.

Given Iran's compliance, the United States has a responsibility to keep its promises, particularly as the U.S. has a history of mismanaging our relationship. We helped the British overthrow the Iranian popularly-elected government in 1953. The United States backed Saddam Hussein in the bloody Iraq-Iran war. Yet, the majority of Iranian people still like Americans.

Not only is the agreement important for controlling nuclear threats and for fostering a better U.S. – Iranian relationship, but Iran is also going to play a key role in the Middle East as the major Shia power. It's in our interest to work with them towards peace and reconciliation.

We will vote against efforts to undercut the agreement and urge our colleagues to do the same. After a year, all the evidence supports the agreement working and Iran complying. We are encouraged by the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) reached between Boeing and Iran Air, with Iran Air purchasing 80 passenger airplanes for \$17.6 billion and supporting over 100,000 American jobs.

In a troubled world, an opportunity to strengthen ties with a former enemy through diplomacy, trade and job creation should not be a cause for concern – it should be a cause for celebration.

Sincerely,

Rep. Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Rep. John Yarmuth
Member of Congress