

Support Funding for the International Atomic Energy Agency

Dear Colleagues,

As we begin to develop and debate the Fiscal Year 2016 Omnibus Appropriations bill, it will be increasingly critical to ensure that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the organization tasked with verifying that states comply with their commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other non-proliferation agreements, has the necessary funding to successfully carry out its duties.

On October 18, 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran was formally adopted and the process of implementation began. As a result of the continuing costs of implementing monitoring and verification under the JCPOA, Director-General Yukiya Amano stated that the agency would require an additional \$10.6 million annually. Although this is a shared cost among all member states, we, as Members of Congress, have a responsibility to ensure that IAEA is set up for success – not failure.

Please join me in urging the Appropriations Committee to include robust funding for the IAEA in any continuing resolution or omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 2016.

The deadline to sign is Thursday, December 3, 2015. For more information or to sign, please contact Gary Timmins in my office at Gary.Timmins@mail.house.gov or at (202) 225-3515.

Sincerely,

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Text of the letter:

December 5, 2015

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
House Appropriations Committee
HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
House Appropriations Committee
HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2016 Omnibus Appropriations bill, we urge you to ensure that the final bill includes robust funding for the accounts that support the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an international organization tasked with verifying that states comply with their commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other non-proliferation agreements.

As you know, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which was formally adopted on October 18, 2015, tasked the IAEA with the critical mission of monitoring Iranian compliance with the provisions concerning its enrichment and heavy water reactor programs. A critical part of the inspection regimen, IAEA inspectors will have enhanced access to all Iranian nuclear sites, including uranium mines and mills, and continuous surveillance of centrifuge manufacturing and storage locations.

As a result, the implementation of verification and monitoring by the IAEA will require supplementary funding from all member states. In a recent address to the IAEA's board of governors in Vienna, Director-General Yukiya Amano stated that the agency would require an additional \$10.6 million annually to conduct verification of Iran's nuclear activities. While we agree that all member states should pay their fair share of the additional costs, we want to ensure that the IAEA has the necessary funding to successfully carry out its duties.

As Members of Congress, we have a foremost responsibility to the continued security of the United States and our allies. We look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Name
Member of Congress