

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 17, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are deeply concerned by Iran's continued violations of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1929 by testing a second ballistic missile on November 21, 2015. Once again, the international community has an opportunity to demonstrate its resolve in the face of Iranian violations of its international obligations.

On December 15, a panel of expert monitors working on behalf of the United Nations Security Council reported that, "On the basis of its analysis and findings the Panel concludes that the Emad launch on October 10th is a violation by Iran of paragraph 9 of Security Council Resolution 1929." Unfortunately, some members of the UN Security Council failed to condemn this violation and failed to take steps collectively to enforce Resolution 1929. If there are no consequences for this violation, Iran's leaders will certainly also question the willingness of the international community to respond to violations of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

The November test is Iran's second recent violation of UNSCR 1929, which clearly states "Iran shall not undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using ballistic missile technology." Clearly, the Security Council should take appropriate enforcement action against Iran in the face of this violation. On this matter, we recognize and appreciate United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power's ongoing efforts to build support to enforce consequences for the October 10 ballistic missile test by referring the issue to the Iran Sanctions Committee and advocating for a forceful response by the UN Security Council. However, in the time it took the Panel of Experts to make a determination on the first violation, Iran tested another ballistic missile.

In the absence of a UN Security Council commitment to enforcing UNSCR 1929, we request that you take action unilaterally, or in coordination with our European allies. Such action is essential to make clear to Iran's leaders that there will be consequences for future violations of UN Security Council Resolutions and that the United States reserves the right under the JCPOA to take unilateral action in response to this and other significant actions by Iran in the areas of ballistic missile development, terrorism and human rights.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



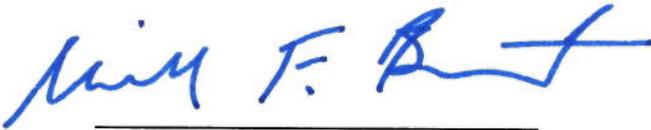
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



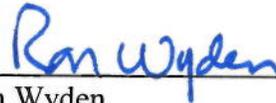
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Christopher Coons
United States Senator



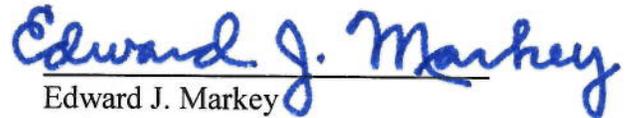
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



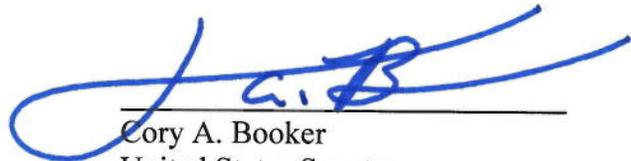
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



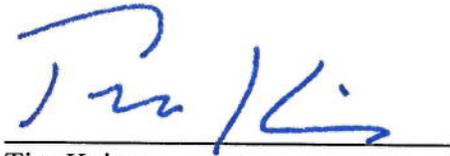
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



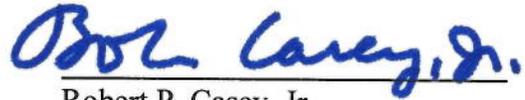
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator



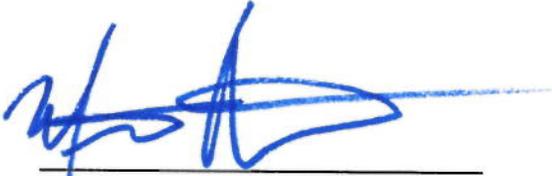
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



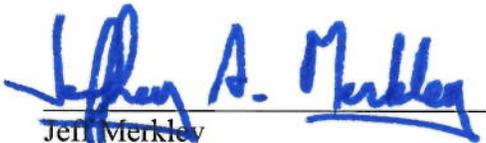
Gary Peters
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator