

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to you regarding the enforcement of a critical sanctions statute that seeks to prevent the Iranian government from accessing technologies that can be used to disrupt or monitor the communications of dissidents or hinder the free flow of information to the Iranian people.

Under Section 106 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (CISADA), entities that export certain sensitive technology to Iran are subject to sanctions. These targeted exports include hardware, software, telecommunications equipment, or other technology that the President determines is to be used to restrict the free flow of information in Iran, or disrupt, monitor or otherwise restrict speech of the people of Iran.

This statute was passed in the wake of the 2009 protests against the Iranian government. During those protests, it became apparent that telecommunications companies and other information technology firms had provided Iran with equipment and software that allowed the Iranian government to monitor its citizens and block their communications. Particularly in light of the new protests in Iran, which have resulted in innocent Iranians being jailed and even killed on the basis of their advocacy, it is critical that we do everything in our power to constrain the regime's ability to track dissidents.

Among the firms that had provided these items were major Western telecommunications companies. In 2010, the European Parliament criticized Nokia Siemens by name for providing technology used by the Iranian regime to commit human rights abuses. The Parliament's resolution "criticizes international companies, and notably Nokia/Siemens, for providing the Iranian authorities with the necessary censorship and surveillance technology. . . [for the] persecution and arrests of Iranian dissidents."

A *Wall Street Journal* article from 2011 also describes a contract between the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei and major Iranian cell phone companies closely affiliated with the Iranian government to allow the police to track people using the locations of their mobile devices. Another leading Chinese telecommunications firm, ZTE, pleaded guilty to evading different U.S. sanctions by purchasing U.S. components, incorporating them into their products, and then distributing them within Iran.

To date, no known firm has been sanctioned under Section 106 of CISADA. However, it is unlikely that there have been no transfers to Iran of these sensitive technologies since the law

became effective in 2010. Iranians rely on social media and other electronic communication tools to obtain news, voice their concerns regarding the Iranian government, and exchange information with each other. The authorities in Tehran have again been very actively attempting to prevent access to social media and related forms of electronic communication relied upon by Iranians during the recent round of protests, as they did in 2009.

We believe that the United States should take a strong stance against those firms that assist the Iranian government in its efforts to suppress information and target protesters. Enforcement of Section 106 should therefore be a high priority for the United States. We request that you review recent activity by the Iranian government to monitor participants in the protests and/or suppress the free flow of information in Iran, determine which firms provided the technology needed for such activity, and sanction them.

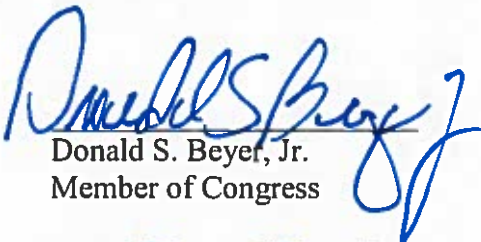
Sincerely,



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



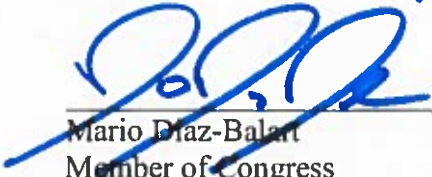
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress




Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



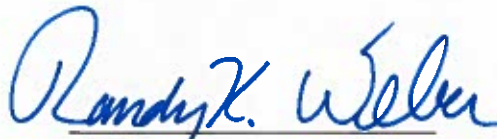
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Keith J. Rothfus
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress