

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2008

The Honorable Pascal Couchepin
President
The Swiss Confederation
Bundeshaus West
3003 Bern

We write to express our opposition to the multi-billion dollar deal that Switzerland's Elektrizitaetsgesellschaft Laufenberg (EGL), an energy trading company, signed on March 17, 2008 with the National Iranian Gas Export Company, the Islamic Republic of Iran's state-owned gas firm. We urge you to annul this deal rather than proceed with an agreement that completely undermines the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) efforts to deter Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons and provides a known state sponsor of terrorism with billions of dollars in new assets.

This gas deal, reportedly worth up to \$42 billion, sends a bad message to Iran—that Switzerland condones the Islamic Republic's efforts to obtain nuclear weapons and provide tens of thousands of missiles, as well as funding and other weaponry, to known terrorist organizations such as Hizbollah and Hamas. The international community—including Switzerland—must be united in its efforts to deter Iran's dangerous behavior, which is why we find this energy deal unacceptable.

As you know, Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey has argued that the Iran-Swiss contract is in line with Switzerland's rights as a neutral country and that it does not violate the sanctions regime against Iran. However, the Swiss government's decision to sign lucrative new gas deals with Iran sends precisely the wrong message at a time when Iran continues to defy UNSC resolutions requiring it to suspend its nuclear program. Further, while the sanctions regime that the UNSC has already passed specifically targets Iranian banks in an effort to isolate the financial institutions that fund Iran's nuclear program and its transfer of missiles and weaponry to terrorist groups, Iran's energy sector is arguably even more critical to Iran's economy. Therefore this sector in particular should be cut off by the international community to send a powerful message that Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and sponsorship of terrorism will not be tolerated.

Finally, Foreign Minister Calmy-Rey's decision to publicly sign this deal alongside Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has repeatedly called for the destruction of the Jewish State of Israel, a UN Member state and the only democracy in the Middle East, undercuts efforts by the UN to isolate the Islamic Republic for its menacing behavior. We are gravely concerned that other governments or private companies will see Switzerland's actions as a sign that investing in Iran's energy section, or other parts of its economy, is acceptable in spite of the international sanctions regime against Iran, a message that we strongly discourage.

For these reasons, we urge you to take action swiftly to annul the natural gas deal between Switzerland and Iran. In addition to straining U.S.-Swiss relations, this energy agreement will erode the international community's efforts to isolate and deter Iran from pursuing a dangerous nuclear

program and continuing its financial support for terrorist organizations. We encourage you to take a leadership role by terminating this agreement immediately and look forward to your kind and prompt reply.

Sincerely,



STEVEN R. ROTHMAN
Member of Congress



JIM SAXTON
Member of Congress



ROBERT A. BRADY
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



RON KLEIN
Member of Congress



BARNEY FRANK
Member of Congress



SHELLEY BERKLEY
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DAN BURTON
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RICK RENZI
Member of Congress



FRANK R. WOLF
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

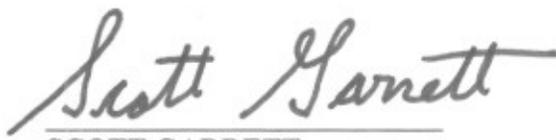

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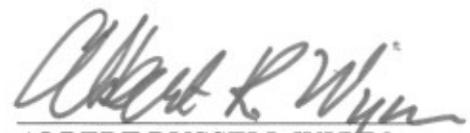
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