



**American Jewish Committee**

Office of Government and International Affairs

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DIRECTOR

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Dear Representative:

The American Jewish Committee urges you to join a letter to Swiss President Pascal Couchepin urging annulment of the multi-billion dollar gas deal that the Swiss company EGL recently signed with Iran's state-owned gas firm. The bipartisan letter, spearheaded by Representatives Steve Rothman and Jim Saxton, is expected to close shortly.

Iran is rapidly advancing toward nuclear arms capability. Recently, it dangerously escalated its uranium enrichment effort—the key part of its nuclear arms program—and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has expressed serious concern about a clandestine Iranian nuclear project with apparent military ties. The new developments could enable Iran to build a nuclear weapon in as short a timeframe as the next year or two. Iran already has missiles to deliver such weapons across the Middle East and beyond—and it continues expanding its reach.

Strong and concerted efforts to thwart Iran's nuclear ambitions—diplomatic, political, economic, and strategic—offer the best chance for America and our allies to address this threat peacefully.

Iran's energy sector sustains its economy, its oppressive regime, its nuclear program, and its sponsorship of terrorism. It is thus a key lever with Tehran. To persuade the Iranian government to end its nuclear violations, a united international front against investment and other involvement in Iran's energy sector is essential.

EGL's deal would undermine that united front. It would help Iran's regime continue its defiant nuclear development, as well as its support for terrorism and its egregious human rights violations. The deal sends exactly the wrong message—that as responsible companies end their business with Iran, other companies will step in, enabling the regime to withstand international sanctions.

Please join your colleagues in sending the message that “the international community—including Switzerland—must be united in its efforts to deter Iran's dangerous behavior.” Your staff may add your name by contacting Shelly Stoneman with Rep. Rothman, at shelly.stoneman@mail.house.gov, or 5-5061, or Christine Hunter with Rep. Saxton, at christine.hunter@mail.house.gov or 5-4765.

Respectfully,

Jason F. Isaacson

**American Jewish Committee**  
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