

Secure America

Congressman Rothman has been working with his colleagues in Congress, and with government agencies at all levels—federal, state, and local—to secure our nation from terrorism. Last year, he worked side-by-side with Sen. Lautenberg to successfully protect NJ's right to increase security at chemical plants in our state. In May, Rothman and another fellow New Jerseyan, Rep. Jim Saxton, launched a bipartisan effort to pressure Swiss President Pascal Couchepin to cancel a \$42 billion energy agreement signed between a Swiss energy company and Iran. The Islamic Republic continues to seek nuclear technology and support terrorist organizations.

See below for more information about each of these efforts.

Rothman-Saxton

Lead Congressional Effort to Stop Swiss Investment in Iran's Energy Sector

On May 28, 2008, U.S. Representatives Steve Rothman (D-NJ) and Jim Saxton (R-NJ) launched a bipartisan effort backed by 25 other Members of Congress to pressure Swiss President Pascal Couchepin to cancel a \$42 billion energy agreement signed between a Swiss energy company and Iran. The Islamic Republic continues to defy international law by seeking nuclear weapons technology and supporting known terrorist organizations. The Rothman-Saxton letter warns the Swiss President that a lucrative 25-year energy deal with Iran would undercut international sanctions in place to deter Iran's dangerous behavior.

"The world community must remain united in our refusal to tolerate Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and sponsorship of terrorism. Contrary to signaling their neutrality, the Swiss deal would send a dangerous message to other governments and private companies that it is okay to ignore international sanctions against the Iranian regime. Further, the agreement would completely undermine global efforts to enforce United Nations Security Council resolutions that require Iran's rulers to suspend their nuclear program," said Rothman, a member of the House Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittees on Defense and State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs.

This Rothman-Saxton effort has been endorsed by the American Jewish Committee.

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Read the full news release announcing the letter.

Rothman and Senator Lautenberg Protect New Jersey's Tough Chemical Plant Security Regulations

Last year, Congress passed a sweeping Homeland Security Appropriations bill. Included in the bill's many provisions was

a stipulation that allows New Jersey and other states to increase security requirements at chemical plants above and beyond existing minimum federal regulations.

Explaining the significance of this protection, Rothman said: "Allowing the State of New Jersey to protect its chemical plants from al Qaeda attacks is one of the most important provisions in this legislation. It took a great deal of effort to overcome the chemical plant lobby, but so far so good. The next battle will be in the Senate," said Rothman. "I'm also especially pleased that a majority of lawmakers agreed to increase funding for risk-based anti-terrorism grants to \$800 million. That increase will directly help increase security in our high-risk area."

Additional News & Information

- Issue: Homeland Security
- Issue: Foreign Policy