



One Hundred Seventeenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 14, 2021

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen,

As Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I remain steadfast in opposing the lifting of sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the world's largest state sponsor of terror. I was troubled to learn that just last week the Biden Administration lifted economic sanctions on three former Iranian officials, as well as several Iranian energy companies.¹ The following day, immediately after such sanctions were lifted, Iran confirmed two of its naval vessels were transiting the Atlantic for the first time—possibly headed to Venezuela for a weapons transfer in America's own backyard.²

It is my firm belief that continuing to lift sanctions would be a historic mistake that would leave the United States less secure. Continuing to operate from a position of weakness and appeasement will only further embolden the Iranian regime's efforts to endanger the lives of Americans, undermine U.S. interests, and threaten the safety and security of our ally, Israel.

I encourage you to immediately reinstate the previously-lifted sanctions, and work diligently to prevent further threats stemming from Iran.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Katko'.

JOHN KATKO
Ranking Member

¹ Ian Talley and Laurence Norman, "U.S. Lifts Some Sanctions Amid Stalled Nuclear Talks," June 10, 2021, *The Wall Street Journal*. <<https://www.wsj.com/articles/biden-administration-lifts-sanctions-on-more-than-dozen-former-iranian-officials-energy-firms-11623347091>>.

² Mostafa Salem, Hamdi Alkhshali, and Vasco Cotovio, "Iran Says Its Naval Vessels Have Reached the Atlantic for the First Time," June 11, 2021, CNN, <<https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/11/middleeast/iran-navy-atlantic-intl/index.html>>.