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10TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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September 10, 2015

Mr. Paul Surovell
Chair
South Mountain Peace Action
101 Plymouth Avenue
Maplewood NJ, 07040

Dear Mr. Surovell:

I write to express my gratitude for the work South Mountain Peace Action and MoveOn.org have done in support of the Iran nuclear agreement, also known as the P5+1 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. I sincerely thank you for your efforts to promote this necessary alternative to war. I wish I could be there in person to discuss the deal with you, but I am in Washington for legislative business.

Iran poses a serious threat not just to the United States and our allies, but to the entire world. This threat would be exponentially greater were Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon. I support the nuclear agreement because it is the best available option to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

It is precisely because we cannot trust Iran that the agreement, based on verification, is necessary. Under the deal, inspectors will have continuous access to Iran's nuclear facilities and supply chain, ensuring compliance with every component of the agreement. If Iran does try to violate the deal, we will know, and we will be able to quickly reapply sanctions. And, critically important, we keep all options to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon on the table.

We arrived at this opportunity to significantly reduce Iran's nuclear infrastructure by working in cooperation with our international partners—the United Kingdom, France, China, Russia, and Germany. They support this deal, as do over 70 non-proliferation experts, 29 top U.S. scientists, 440 rabbis, and over 60 Israeli ex-security officials. The overwhelming majority of nuclear and defense experts support the deal because they know it will block Iran's path to a nuclear weapon.

The deal isn't perfect, but there is no viable alternative. If the deal collapses, Iran would have no limitations on its nuclear ambitions and international sanctions would fall apart.

I share your commitment to securing peaceful alternatives to war, and I have consistently supported diplomacy over military action to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. This diplomatic agreement, supported by our international partners, is a historic opportunity to achieve our primary objective of keeping a nuclear bomb out of the hands of the Iranians.

Again, I thank you for gathering today in support of the agreement, and I promise to continue fighting for diplomatic solutions to conflicts.

Sincerely,



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress