

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 31, 2022

Mr. Rafael Grossi
Director-General
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Center
P.O. Box 100 A-1400
Vienna, Austria

Dear Director-General Grossi,

As the potential of a new nuclear deal with Iran grows, we write in support of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) vital and independent mission of promoting the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear technologies. As President Joe Biden and others inch toward what would be a disastrous new deal with Iran, we ask that you stay true to the IAEA's fundamental role as an impartial, technical, and professional organization and fully exercise your independent verification mandate under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

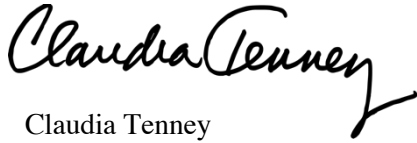
To date, the Islamic Republic of Iran has not cooperated fully with the IAEA's investigation into possible violations of its safeguards agreement under the NPT. Despite this lack of cooperation, which you confirmed as recently as last week, the United States along with the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, and China (P5+1), appear ready to conclude a new nuclear agreement with Iran. We believe strongly that this would be a grave mistake for the nuclear non-proliferation architecture and have continued to make our views clear in this regard.

In recent days, news reports have indicated that the P5+1 are considering acquiescing to Iran's demand that the IAEA's ongoing safeguards probe be terminated before the nuclear deal can be revived. As you know, the IAEA's inquiry into Iran's safeguards violations is fundamentally a technical question, not a political one. Accordingly, this probe should be terminated only when all outstanding technical issues and concerns have been addressed and sufficiently resolved. The IAEA's important safeguards work should not be impacted by outside negotiations, and the IAEA should continue its technical work in the same professional and impartial manner as it always has under your leadership. We urge you to resist pressure to draw this vitally important investigation to an end solely for the sake of political expediency.

We understand that the IAEA's Board of Governors could ignore the IAEA's technical expertise and professional assessment to make the ill-advised decision of closing this file even if Iran continues to stonewall. This would be deeply irresponsible of them to do, and we continue to urge President Biden not to make this mistake. Nonetheless, to maintain the reputation and legitimacy of the IAEA, a priority we know you hold dear, we urge you to act in the coming weeks based on the technical facts and not the political winds. If the IAEA lends credibility to closing this safeguards probe prematurely despite outstanding issues, the obligations of countries under the NPT will be eroded, as will the credibility of your independent verification mission.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

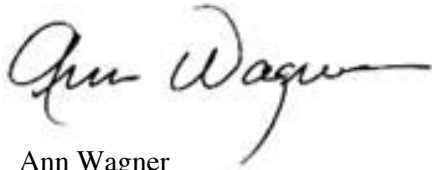
Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Claudia Tenney in black ink.

Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Jim Banks in black ink.

Jim Banks
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Ann Wagner in black ink.

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Christopher H. Smith in black ink.

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Randy Weber in black ink.

Randy Weber
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Joe Wilson in blue ink.

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress