

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 30, 2016

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Lew:

We urge you to address the alarming decision of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to institute a twelve-month suspension of counter measures against Iran concerning its money laundering and terrorist financing activities. While Iran will remain on the FATF blacklist, we are deeply troubled that FATF – the independent body responsible for setting global standards for anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) – prematurely suspended counter measures against Iran following Iran’s adoption of an action plan to address the country’s woefully inadequate AML/CFT regime. As the world’s largest state sponsor of terrorism, Iran must be held accountable for its malign influence and activities.

International financial institutions should not embolden Iran’s illegal activities that threaten the national security of the U.S. and our allies, particularly our major strategic partner Israel – the target of much of Iran’s terrorist financing in the region. Iran continues to support a swath of terrorist activities by funding its terrorist proxies and partners, including Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Assad regime. Just last week, Hezbollah’s Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah proclaimed, “Hezbollah’s budget, its income, its expenses, everything it eats and drinks, its weapons and rockets, come from the Islamic Republic of Iran.” As long as Iran continues to fund these terrorist entities, the U.S. must strengthen enforcement actions against Iran, including strengthening international sanctions enforcement against individuals and entities involved in terrorist financing.

Given Iran’s ongoing terrorist financing and money laundering activities, decisions regarding Iran’s treatment within the international banking system must be based on evidence of change, not on a mere political commitment by high level officials in Iran to implement their AML/CFT action plan. As the U.S. Department of the Treasury represents the United States at FATF, we urge you to address these concerns with FATF and prevent any further attempts to reintegrate Iran into the international banking system, until Iran eliminates its entrenched practice of financing terrorism. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you on this matter.

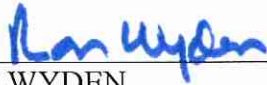
Sincerely,



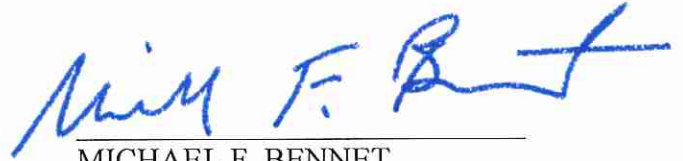
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
United States Senate



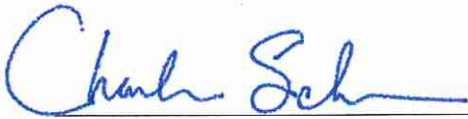
ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senate



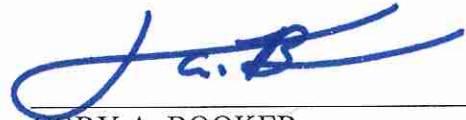
RON WYDEN  
United States Senate



MICHAEL F. BENNET  
United States Senate



CHARLES E. SCHUMER  
United States Senate



CORY A. BOOKER  
United States Senate



ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
United States Senate



MARK WARNER  
United States Senate