



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

September 1, 2015

Dear Texas Congressional Delegation,

I am writing to you today to express my strident opposition to President Obama's Iran deal, and to ask you to join me in rejecting this ill-advised scheme. Together we will show that Texas stands with Israel, not with state sponsors of terrorism.

Entering into an agreement with a country that consistently calls for "death to America" and expecting them to live up to this deal is not only short-sighted, it is turning a blind eye to geopolitical realities. This is also the same regime that has blatantly flouted the terms of previous international agreements. This agreement is nothing more than an attempt to advance President Obama's "legacy" at the expense of our national security.

In addition to compromising U.S. national security, this deal will threaten our country's greatest ally in the Middle East: Israel. On May 21, 2015, we celebrated Texas-Israel Day at our State Capitol. Since 1948, Texas has consistently acted to strengthen this historic friendship. These actions include passage of legislative resolutions celebrating Israel's and Texas' relationship and supporting Israel's legal, historical, moral and God-given right of self-governance and self-defense. As the largest state-sanctioned sponsor of terrorism, Iran remains a significant threat to Israel. So long as Iran is a threat to Israel, Iran is a threat to Texas.

Texas will continue its efforts to prohibit investments in Iran. Texas law currently bans taxpayer-funded investment in Iran and with entities that do business with Iran. President Obama's deal with Iran attempts to undermine this policy, but I will not allow Iran to dictate the use of Texans' tax dollars. It is my hope that Congress will reject the President's deal, but should it move forward, Texas will do everything it can to prevent public investment in Iran. The retirement funds of Texas state employees and teachers will not be complicit in the financing of terrorism across the globe. If the unfortunate occurs, and this deal passes, I will also be calling on private enterprises across our state to join in refusing to aid a hostile Iranian regime.

I call upon the Texas Congressional delegation to reject President Obama's deal with Iran, reaffirm our nation's support for Israel, and uphold states' rights to prohibit investment that would benefit Iran.

Sincerely,

Greg Abbott  
Governor