

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 1, 2004

Mr. George W. Bush
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write concerning the Group of Eight Summit to be held in the United States on June 8-10. We understand that the centerpiece of the Summit is consideration of proposals to initiate the process of democratic transformation of the Middle East. While we know that such a transformation will be neither easy nor accomplished quickly, we believe, as you do, that it is essential to begin if that region is ever to be stable and peaceful.

At the same time, we also believe that the Summit presents a rare opportunity to further a multilateral approach to the threat to international security that Iran's nuclear weapons program presents. Each of the other seven participant nations has declared the Iranian nuclear program to be of great concern. Each has substantial economic relations with Iran. Taken together, well over 40% of all Iran's trade is with these seven nations, giving them enormous economic leverage over Iran.

Over the last two years, the international community has learned a great deal about Iran's nuclear duplicity. As a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran has foresworn obtaining nuclear weapons. The Treaty obligates Iran to declare all of its nuclear activities to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to place all of them under the IAEA's inspection regime. Yet Iran has pursued a clandestine nuclear program for nearly two decades and has hidden from the IAEA an incredible range of nuclear activity, including the importation of uranium, the construction of uranium enrichment facilities, the construction of a uranium conversion facility, experimentation with the separation of plutonium, and the construction of a heavy water production facility.

It was only after this information was publicly revealed by an Iranian opposition group that Iran acknowledged such activities. But Iran has continued its deception even after supposedly giving the IAEA a complete accounting of its nuclear activities. The IAEA has continued to uncover new facts about the Iranian program, including the recent discoveries that Iran had experimented with polonium, the element used to initiate a chain reaction for nuclear explosives, and the discovery at more than one site of the presence of uranium enriched far beyond what is required for civil nuclear power.

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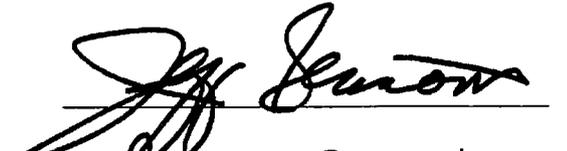
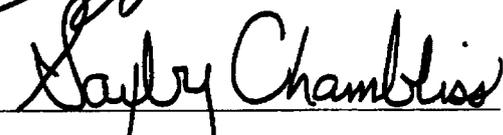
What we know of the Iranian nuclear weapons program indicates that it is at a very advanced stage of development—and, of course, we don't yet know its full scope. There is only a very limited time to stop Iran before the world confronts the realization that the leading sponsor of international terrorism possesses the ability to produce a nuclear weapon.

We believe the G-8 Summit, which occurs the week before the IAEA's Board of Governors meets to consider Iran's latest nuclear declaration, is a particularly timely opportunity to highlight the global concern over Iran's nuclear activities. We strongly urge you to press for the adoption of a common G-8 strategy to confront this threat, including the use of multilateral economic sanctions. Until now, Iran has had to pay little economic penalty for its illegal nuclear program. We hope that our G-8 partners, all of whom stress the importance of maintaining the international non-proliferation regime, will take seriously their own words of concern about Iran and use their vast economic leverage with Iran before it is too late.

Sincerely,


John Ensign
United States Senate


Bill Nelson
United States Senate












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~~Joe Roubal~~

George V. Benovich

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Wayne Allard

John McCain

Frank Lott

Maria Cantwell

John Breaux

Herb Kohl

Frank R. Lautenberg

Jim F. Kerry

~~Joe Roubal~~

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