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July 9, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

I am honored to host the United Nations in my district and I know that the security and strength of our country is greatly impacted by what happens on the global stage. Threats against our country often seem to be targeted toward New York City and that makes the discussions among the P5+1 and Iran particularly urgent for my district. I and many of my constituents view a nuclear Iran as a direct threat to us, as well as to Iran's neighbors. Accordingly, we commend you for taking steps for trying to eliminate the threat that Iran will become a nuclear power. Nonetheless, it is hard to read recent statements made by Iranian leaders about the negotiations without a growing sense of trepidation.

Iran has continued its sponsorship of terrorism throughout the world, even as nuclear negotiations have proceeded. They have done little publicly to inspire confidence that they will comply with an agreement. I would be very concerned about lifting sanctions without a strong and verifiable enforcement and inspection system in place. The Iranians have conducted much of their nuclear program in secret while publicly denying its very existence. It is distressing to read that Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Hosseini Khamenei, called for immediate lifting of sanctions and deemed a long horizon for the agreement 'not acceptable.' It is equally troubling that Iran's parliament specifically banned access by inspectors to scientists and military sites.

President Obama has said that no deal is better than a bad deal. I couldn't agree more. I urge you to continue to insist that there must be a strong inspection regime, sanctions should not be lifted until it is clear that Iran is being compliant, Iran must reveal the full extent of its past nuclear activities and sanctions that are in place because of Iran's support for terrorist activities must not be lifted. I am hopeful that you can achieve an agreement that will truly eliminate

Iran's pathway to a nuclear weapon. I know that it is important to try every avenue to reach an agreement, but the P5+1 must be willing to walk away from a bad deal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carolyn B. Maloney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress