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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2107

May 1, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to express my grave concern regarding the potential submission to Congress of an Agreement for Nuclear Cooperation that you have negotiated with the Russian Federation. I believe that seeking the approval of Congress for nuclear cooperation with Russia without first addressing the numerous outstanding questions regarding Russia's assistance to Iran in the fields of nuclear energy and missile technology is a prescription for an unnecessarily divisive debate, which is in neither U.S. nor Russian interests.

On April 16, 2008, the House Energy and Commerce Committee submitted Questions for the Record to Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman. Included in this package were seven questions from me regarding recent revelations that the same Russian research institutes which receive DOE nonproliferation funding are engaged in assisting Iran's nuclear program. As we all know, money is fungible, and I am extremely concerned that U.S. taxpayer dollars that are supposed to be making the world safer by redirecting former Soviet WMD scientists to peaceful activities may in fact be indirectly assisting Iran's nuclear program. I asked the Department to provide a legal analysis of whether this program is in full compliance with the Cox-Markey Amendment of 2005, which bars nuclear trade, *whether direct or indirect*, to countries named by the Department of State as State Sponsors of Terror. As you know, Iran has topped that list for many years. Secretary Bodman's responses to these questions are due on May 16, 2008. I urge you to not submit any Agreement for Nuclear Cooperation with Russia to the Congress for approval until Secretary Bodman responds in full to the questions that have been raised about Russian nuclear cooperation with Iran.

More generally, it would be a mistake for the United States to provide Russia an important civilian nuclear benefit while Moscow itself continues to assist Iran's nuclear and missile programs. Only last year, the Director for National Intelligence confirmed that Russia continues to assist both programs.

In addition, according to recent press reports, Azerbaijan has halted a shipment of Russian nuclear equipment bound for Iran pending a determination of whether the shipment violates United Nations Security Council sanctions on Iran.

All of these issues need to be properly addressed and resolved before we proceed to finalize a nuclear cooperation agreement with Moscow. It certainly is a mistake to argue, as some Administration officials have already, that we must formalize a nuclear cooperation agreement with Russia to promote the Global Nuclear Energy Program or to stand up an international nuclear fuel bank. Both efforts can proceed without such an agreement. More importantly, if Russian assistance to Iran's nuclear and missile programs are not openly acknowledged and properly challenged, our efforts to halt Iran's steady march towards a nuclear weapons capability become far less likely to succeed.

I look forward to working with you on these important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward J. Markey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "E" and "M".

Edward J. Markey