

EDWARD J. MARKEY
7th DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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

May 14, 2008

Does Russia want Nuclear Cooperation with The United States or Iran?

BECAUSE IT SHOULDN'T HAVE BOTH

Dear Colleague:

Yesterday, the Bush Administration submitted to Congress an Agreement for Nuclear Cooperation with Russia. Today I am introducing a joint resolution to block this ill-considered agreement, which otherwise will go into effect automatically after 90 days of session.

Ratifying an agreement for nuclear cooperation with Russia is a bad idea at this time because:

- **Russia continues to assist Iran's nuclear program.** Russia continues to construct Iran's large nuclear reactor at Bushehr, has delivered at least seven shipments of nuclear fuel, and according to CRS has trained about 700 Iranian nuclear engineers.
- **Russia continues to assist Iran's missile program.** Just last year, the Director of National Intelligence assessed that Russia continued to provide missile assistance to Iran, and that this assistance "has helped Iran move toward self-sufficiency in the production of ballistic missiles."
- **U.S. nonproliferation funding to Russian nuclear institutes may have spilled over into nuclear work for Iran.** In February it was revealed that some of the same Russian nuclear institutes which receive Department of Energy nonproliferation funds were actively engaged in nuclear assistance to Iran. The Department of Energy has not yet answered many questions about this, including whether this program violated the 2005 Cox-Markey Amendment, which bars direct or indirect nuclear assistance to countries which are State Sponsors of Terror. As you know, Iran has topped that list for many years.
- **Russia has sold Iran advanced conventional weapons and air-defense systems.** By January of 2007, Russia had delivered to Iran 30 Tor M1 advanced anti-aircraft missile systems.
- **Russian entities continue to face U.S. sanction for WMD- and missile-related transfers.** Since 2001, ten Russian entities have been sanctioned by the United States on eleven separate occasions.
- **There is no need for a U.S.-Russia Nuclear Cooperation Agreement.** The Bush Administration has argued publicly that this agreement is necessary to advance the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership and to stand up an international fuel bank. But regardless of your views on GNEP or the fuel bank, both efforts can proceed without such an agreement. Furthermore, our vital Nunn-Lugar nonproliferation programs with Russia have existed for more than a decade and a half without such an agreement, and none of our bilateral nonproliferation programs will be threatened if this agreement does not go into effect.

Unfortunately, this U.S.-Russia Agreement for Nuclear Cooperation, much like an international arms sale, will go into effect automatically unless both the House and Senate pass a Resolution of Disapproval.

I urge you to join me in seeking to block this flawed and unnecessary Agreement for Nuclear Cooperation with Russia. For more information or to cosponsor this Resolution of Disapproval, please contact Will Huntington of my staff at 5-2836 or will.huntington@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey