

JOHN B. LARSON
FIRST DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE

DEMOCRATIC STEERING COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0701
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

1501 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202-225-2265
202-225-1031 (FAX)

DISTRICT OFFICE

221 MAIN STREET, SECOND FLOOR
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
860-278-8888
860-278-2111 (FAX)

INTERNET ADDRESS

<http://www.larson.house.gov>

TOLL-FREE NUMBER (IN STATE ONLY):
888-716-4734

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I commend you and the efforts of your administration for your unwavering commitment to ensuring Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon. I also extend my sincere congratulations on reaching a historic international agreement to achieve this goal without dragging the United States into another war. Like my colleagues, I am now eager to continue the review of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPA), analyze its implications, and discuss it with my constituents.

Just today I hosted my first community forum on the agreement. Attendance was incredible, and it was quickly clear that those participating in the discussion had a deep understanding of the agreement and an emotional tie to its success or failure. Though numerous citizens voiced just as many viewpoints and concerns, I heard one question repeatedly throughout the afternoon: why would the United Nations Security Council vote to lift sanctions prior to the United States Congress completing its review? Although the UN resolution at question would delay the implementation of the JCPA for 90 days allowing the congressional review timeline to expire in its entirety, it does not account for the potential disapproval of Congress.

Many of my constituents disagree with the UN Security Council holding the vote prior to Congress having an opportunity to reach a consensus on the agreement, and they are calling for a delay. I find their request to be quite reasonable, as a preemptive vote could be seen as undermining the Congressional role in reviewing the JCPA. I am writing today to inquire as to why the vote will be held prior to the conclusion of the Congressional review process. I—like many in my District—believe a delay until the conclusion of this 60-day review would better maintain Congress' role in this critically important topic. This delay would in turn provide a greater legitimacy to the national dialogue, which I believe is critical to the long-term success of the JCPA.

Again, thank you again for your continued work on behalf of the American people. I am proud of all you have achieved and look forward to continuing to work with you as you strive to improve the lives of the American people and create and maintain peace around the world.

Sincerely,


JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress