

CAMPAIGN FOR A NEW AMERICAN POLICY ON IRAN

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 9:30am

Hosted by: Friends Committee on National Legislation

Meeting notes

Legislation to be aware of:

[H.R. 1208](#) - Ros Lehtinen bill to strengthen sanctions, *require* state and local divestment, and prohibit lifting sanctions on Iran until the President certifies Iran has ended its WMD program and support for terrorism. 36 cosponsors, all Republicans.

H.R. ____ - Sherman is planning to reintroduce the Berman bill on transshipment of materials (same as [H.R. 7112](#) that passed in September).

([H.R. 2347](#)) - B. Frank is planning to reintroduce his divestment authorization bill, though has delayed meeting with his staff about it .

[H.R. 1105](#) - Omnibus appropriations bill, passed by House, set to pass Senate without amendments by Friday. Includes interesting developments on the Democracy Fund:

The Iran Democracy Fund as we know it is nowhere to be found in this bill. Technically, it will be up to the President's discretion to continue to fund the Iran Democracy Program from the general democracy promotion fund, though at this point a lot is still unclear. Given that our concerns have historically focused on the "regime change subtext" of the money, it's possible we can view this as a victory--without an Iran Democracy Program specifically, there's less justification for hardliners in Iran to crack down on dissidents.

*None of this is confirmed yet, so everyone please keep investigating.
Communicate to the group as you uncover the truth!*

[H.R. ____ - Conyers Incidents at Sea Resolution.](#)

We are still trying to obtain original sponsors to balance Conyers before introducing. Geoff Davis has said he'll make a decision today. We have been reaching out to a targeted group, but need your help.

Every office we've talked to has said that it's a good idea; we just haven't found anyone willing to take the plunge and be an original sponsor. It's all politics. Therefore, we will target our efforts on a handful of key offices and push hard on a few key people.

Someone mentioned the option of submitting an op-ed to a local newspaper in a key district. Also, enlisting grasstops to influence their representative. [note: I would recommend timing these efforts to coincide with any meetings we may have with these offices. That way, for example, they will receive a dozen phone calls on the same morning we sit down and talk with their chief of staff about it.] Also, Search for Common Ground will be bringing a handful of retired Admirals to the Hill in early April for a staff briefing. We will be reaching out to offices before then, but can use this opportunity as a back-up if necessary. (Hopefully by that time we'll be looking for *cosponsors* rather than original sponsors).

I am attaching a list of offices for us to target. ***We are asking for volunteers with strong relationships with these offices to make the case to them. Please email the group if you are willing to arrange a meeting with any of these members.*** Emily, Jill, Eric or I would be glad to accompany you to these meetings, or at the very least provide you with resources to prepare for them.

At this moment, it is also a good idea to reach out to the Senate side. Likely targets will be Senators Webb, Specter, and Casey.

Attending:

Patrick Disney (*National Iranian American Council*)

Anthony Wilson (*Open Society Policy Center*)

Rachelle Lyndaker Schlabach (*Mennonite Central Committee U.S.*)

John Isaacs (*Council for a Livable World*)

Stephen McInerney (*Project on Middle East Democracy*)

Alissa Wilson (*American Friends Service Committee*)

Kate Gould (*FCNL*)

Jim Fine (*FCNL*)

Jill Marie Parillo (*Physicians for Social Responsibility*)

Calling:

Paul Kawika Martin (*Peace Action*)

Emily Blout (*National Iranian American Council*)

Chelsea Mozen (*Just Foreign Policy*)