

**From:** Emily L Blout [eblout@niacouncil.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 26, 2008 12:00 PM  
**To:** 'Nema Milaninia'  
**Cc:** 'Babak Talebi'; 'Patrick Disney'; tparsi@niacouncil.org  
**Subject:** regarding your conversation with Babak: Op-ed  
 Nema,

Good news! We're making headway on the blockade resolution. Per your conversation with Babak, it would be great if you could do an op-ed geared to the Iranian American community. It could frame our crusade against H Con Res 362 as a "David and Goliath" type deal with NIAC taking on the big boys (AIPAC) and making warmongers nervous. AIPAC directly referenced NIAC in its statement of denial, and now the lead sponsors of the resolution have issued a letter attempting to clarify the intention of the bill. This doesn't change the fact that implementation of this resolution would require a naval blockade.

[http://www.politico.com/blogs/thecrypt/0608/Ackerman\\_Pence\\_deny\\_calling\\_for\\_Iran\\_blockade.html](http://www.politico.com/blogs/thecrypt/0608/Ackerman_Pence_deny_calling_for_Iran_blockade.html)  
<http://www.truthout.org/article/congressional-resolution-demands-bush-act-iran>

Our talking points and the bill text is below. It currently has 205 co-sponsors and will likely go to the floor after independence day recess (June 30-July 4).

Thanks!

-Emily

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"Promoting Iranian American Participation In American Civic Life"

### **H. Con. Res. 362: A War Resolution**

**---This resolution is a call for war.\*** In order to effectively stop refined petroleum shipments to Iran, the United States would have to impose a naval blockade. This is universally recognized under international law as an act of war. *Passage of this resolution would signal to the world that the US would rather resort to war than invest in diplomacy.*

**---Threats of a naval blockade in the Strait of Hormuz could cause gas prices to soar to cataclysmic heights.** Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shaul Mofaz issued a threat to Iran that produced the largest single day increase in the price of oil in history. Simply by endorsing this resolution, Congress could similarly drive up the price of gas. Washington should not make a bad situation worse for the American people, who already suffer from record gas prices.

**---By blocking all traffic entering or departing Iran, Congress is targeting the people of Iran, not the government.** The majority of the Iranian population is under 35 and pro-western. Through this resolution, the US would lose the hearts and minds of the Iranian people, one of our greatest strategic assets and a bulwark against anti-Americanism in the region.

**---Sanctioning Iran's refined petroleum imports lets the Iranian government off the hook for its**

**own corruption and economic mismanagement.** Tehran maintains its costly gasoline subsidies because it feels the Iranian people would not tolerate higher prices. This resolution would give the government of Iran the window it needs to raise the price of gas and put the blame on the United States.

**---This resolution will empower Iranian hardliners.** The conservative rulers of Iran's government regularly consolidate their power by trumpeting the threat of a US conspiracy to attack. Under threat of war, the Iranian people will rally around the flag and their national leaders.

\*Section 3 calls on the President to prohibit "the export to Iran of all refined petroleum products." The House resolution also "demands" that the president impose "stringent inspection requirements on all persons, vehicles, ships, planes, trains, and cargo entering or departing Iran."

10th CONGRESS  
2d Session

**H. CON. RES. 362**

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the threat posed to international peace, stability in the Middle East, and the vital national security interests of the United States by Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and regional hegemony, and for other purposes.

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**May 22, 2008**

Mr. ACKERMAN (for himself and Mr. PENCE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the threat posed to international peace, stability in the Middle East, and the vital national security interests of the United States by Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and regional hegemony, and for other purposes.

Whereas Iran is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), has foresworn the acquisition of nuclear weapons by ratification of the NPT, and is legally bound to declare and place all its nuclear activity under constant monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);

Whereas for nearly 20 years, in clear contravention of its explicit obligations under the NPT, Iran operated a covert nuclear program until it was revealed by an Iranian opposition group in 2002;

Whereas the IAEA has confirmed such illicit covert nuclear activities as the importation of uranium hexafluoride, construction of a uranium enrichment facility, experimentation with plutonium, importation of centrifuge technology, construction of centrifuges, and importation of designs to convert highly enriched uranium gas into metal and shape it into the core of a nuclear weapon;

Whereas Iran continues to expand the number of centrifuges at its enrichment facility, as made evident by its announced intention to begin installation of 6,000 advanced centrifuges to enrich uranium, in defiance of binding United Nations Security Council resolutions demanding Iran suspend enrichment activities;

Whereas the November 2007 National Intelligence Estimate reported that Iran was secretly working on the design and manufacture of a nuclear warhead until at least 2003, but that Iran could have enough highly enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon as soon as late 2009;

Whereas an Iranian nuclear weapons capability would pose a grave threat to international peace and security by fundamentally altering and destabilizing the strategic balance in the Middle East, and severely undermining the global nonproliferation regime;

Whereas Iran's overt sponsorship of several terrorist groups, including Hamas and Hezbollah, and its close ties to Syria raise the possibility that Iran would share its nuclear materials and technology with others;

Whereas Iran continues to develop ballistic missile technology and is pursuing the capability to field intercontinental ballistic missiles, a delivery system suited almost exclusively to nuclear weapons payloads;

Whereas Iranian leaders have repeatedly called for the destruction of Israel, a major non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally, and a member of the United Nations;

Whereas the United States, Russia, China, France, the United Kingdom, and Germany have offered, and continue to offer, to negotiate a significant package of economic, diplomatic, and security incentives if Iran complies with the United Nations Security Council's resolutions demanding that Iran suspend uranium enrichment;

Whereas Iran has consistently refused such offers;

Whereas as a result of Iran's failure to comply with the mandates of the United Nations Security Council, taken under Chapter VII of the United Nations' Charter, the international community has imposed limited sanctions over

the past 2 years that have begun to have an impact on the Iranian economy;

Whereas Iran's rapid development of its nuclear capabilities is outpacing the slow ratcheting up of economic and diplomatic sanctions;

Whereas Iran has used its banking system, including the Central Bank of Iran, to support its proliferation efforts and its assistance to terrorist groups, leading the Department of Treasury to designate 4 large Iranian banks proliferators and supporters of terrorism;

Whereas Iran's support for Hezbollah has enabled that group to wage war against the Government and people of Lebanon, leading to its political domination of that country;

Whereas Iran's support for Hamas has enabled it to illegally seize control of Gaza from the Palestinian Authority, and to continuously bombard Israeli civilians with rockets and mortars;

Whereas Iran continues to provide training, weapons, and financial assistance to Shi'a militants inside of Iraq and antigovernment warlords in Afghanistan;

Whereas those Shi'a militant groups and Afghan warlords use Iranian training, weapons, and financing to attack American and allied forces trying to support the legitimate Governments of Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas Iran is further destabilizing the Middle East by underwriting a massive rearmament campaign by Syria;

Whereas through these efforts, Iran seeks to establish regional hegemony, threatens longstanding friends and allies of the United States in the Middle East, and endangers vital American national security interests; and

Whereas nothing in this resolution shall be construed as an authorization of the use of force against Iran: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress--*

(1) declares that preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability, through all appropriate economic, political, and diplomatic means, is vital to the national security interests of the United States and must be dealt with urgently;

(2) urges the President, in the strongest of terms, to immediately use his existing authority to impose sanctions on--

(A) the Central Bank of Iran and any other Iranian bank engaged in proliferation activities or the support of terrorist groups;

(B) international banks which continue to conduct financial transactions with proscribed Iranian banks;

(C) energy companies that have invested \$20,000,000 or more in the Iranian petroleum or natural gas sector in any given year since the enactment of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996; and

(D) all companies which continue to do business with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps;

(3) demands that the President initiate an international effort to immediately and dramatically increase the economic, political, and diplomatic pressure on Iran to verifiably suspend its nuclear enrichment activities by, inter alia, prohibiting the export to Iran of all refined petroleum products; imposing stringent inspection requirements on all persons, vehicles, ships, planes, trains, and cargo entering or departing Iran; and prohibiting the international movement of all Iranian officials not involved in negotiating the suspension of Iran's nuclear program; and

(4) urges the President to lead a sustained, serious, and forceful effort at regional diplomacy to support the legitimate governments in the region against Iranian efforts to destabilize them, to reassure our friends and allies that the United States supports them in their resistance to Iranian efforts at hegemony, and to make clear to the Government of Iran that the United States will protect America's vital national security interests in the Middle East.