



## UNITED STATES SENATE

June 25, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

I have long standing reservations relating to the direction of the P5+1 nuclear negotiations with Iran. These concerns were exacerbated this week following Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's articulation of his position on access to facilities and inspections; restrictions on Iran's nuclear activities; and the timing of sanctions relief that may result from any deal. Additional actions by the Iranian Parliament to bar international inspectors from accessing military sites further complicates efforts to successfully conclude negotiations. In light of these developments, I encourage you to suspend negotiations with Iran until they repudiate these statements.

This week, the Ayatollah stated that, "all economic, financial and banking sanctions, implemented either by the United Nations Security Council, the United States Congress or the Administration, must be lifted immediately when the deal is signed." He further stated that "you cannot ask us to fulfill our commitments and wait for the IAEA's confirmation for removing the sanctions. We completely disagree with it." A phased withdrawal of nuclear sanctions on Iran has been a well-established principle in negotiations. Many in Congress already have grave concerns regarding how Iran will use the money it receives from sanctions relief. Accordingly, the Iranians must not be allowed to insist that sanctions relief be front-loaded and not contingent on compliance.

With regards to Iranian enrichment activities, the Ayatollah stated that "freezing Iran's research and development for a long time, like 10 years or 12 years, is not acceptable." This is a major reversal from the White House summary of the interim agreement with Iran which states that, "[f]or ten years, Iran will limit domestic enrichment capacity and research and development." I already had concerns that this negotiating position did not do enough to limit Iranian activities and will leave Iran positioned as a threshold nuclear state. Restrictions on Iran's nuclear program should not be lifted until there is a well-documented change in Iranian behavior.

On Tuesday, the Ayatollah repeated his previous refusals to allow inspections of Iranian military sites. The Iranian Parliament and the Guardian Council supported this position by approving legislation that bars international inspectors from access to Iranian military sites. Access to scientists, documents and places through anytime inspections are of the upmost importance to the viability of a nuclear agreement with Iran. This includes unencumbered access to problematic

sites such as Parchin, and sites that are yet to be disclosed or discovered. A deal without anytime, anywhere inspections simply is not worth contemplating because it would provide no hedge against a covert nuclear program despite a lengthy Iranian history of covert nuclear activity.

Therefore, it is critical that you clarify these seemingly new Iranian redlines before negotiations with Iran proceed. A bad deal with Iran threatens the national security of the United States and our allies and therefore we must be unequivocal with Iran about our redlines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lindsey O. Graham", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator