



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FEB 22 2016

The Honorable  
Lee Zeldin  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Zeldin:

Thank you for your December 7, 2015 letter regarding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). We sincerely regret the delay in responding to your inquiry.

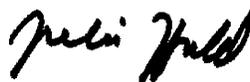
The JCPOA is not a treaty or an executive agreement, and is not a signed document. Instead, the JCPOA reflects political commitments between Iran, the P5+1 (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, China), and the European Union. The United States has a long-standing practice of addressing sensitive problems in negotiations that culminate in political commitments.

The JCPOA, which achieves the goal of cutting off all of Iran's pathways to a nuclear weapon, does not need to be legally binding under international law to be rigorous and enforceable. Rather, its success relies on the unprecedented monitoring and verification measures we have put in place under the JCPOA, as well as Iran's understanding that we have the capacity to re-impose – and ramp up – our sanctions if Iran does not meet its commitments.

To date, Iran has kept its JCPOA commitments as noted in the IAEA's January 16 report verifying that Iran had completed all of its key nuclear steps under the JCPOA to reach Implementation Day. This included steps that dramatically rolled back Iran's nuclear program and put it under unprecedented IAEA monitoring and surveillance, as well as undertaking legally binding obligations under the Additional Protocol to Iran's Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. These steps reinforce Iran's legally binding obligations as a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). However, if Iran ever reverses course and breaks its JCPOA commitments, we have the ability to snap back both unilateral and UN Sanctions.

We hope this information is useful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia Frifield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Julia Frifield  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs