

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2023

Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles
EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
c/o Delegation of the European Union
2175 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Dear High Representative Borrell,

We write to you today regarding the European Union's decision not to designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization. On January 18, the European Parliament voted 598 to 9 in favor of a measure calling for the EU to designate the IRGC as part of an annual foreign and security policy report and approved a separate Iran-focused resolution on January 19 reiterating this position on the IRGC. Following this vote however, you and your colleagues on the EU Foreign Affairs Council elected not to execute the designation.

Iran remains a leading state sponsor of terror. For decades, the IRGC has freely and openly carried out plots targeting citizens in countries across the EU. A recent study by the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point showed that in the last five years Iran has instigated at least 33 plots to surveil, abduct, or assassinate citizens in Europe.

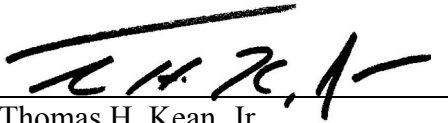
We understand the legal complexities involved in designating the IRGC as a terrorist organization pursuant to EU law Common Position 931, and fully appreciate the need for this decision to be adjudicated by either a judicial or "equivalent competent authority." But given the growing threat Iran poses to EU member states and their citizens, we urge you to treat this issue with the utmost urgency.

We believe there is an abundance of evidence available to the EU to provide the necessary basis for a terror designation of the IRGC, particularly given the European Court of Justice's ruling that investigations and prosecutions outside of the EU may be used as evidence to support additions to the terror list.

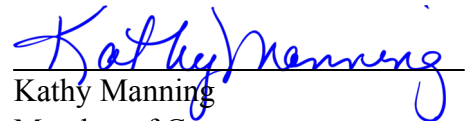
The IRGC has been implicated in, or could be linked to, numerous assassination plots both in and outside of the EU in recent years. Germany is currently pursuing prosecution against IRGC-linked individuals responsible for plotting attacks against synagogues in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Last year, an Iranian diplomat was convicted on terrorism charges in Belgium for his role in a 2018 plot against a gathering in Paris. In November, Britain's MI5 chief reported that there had been at least 10 kidnapping or assassination plots by the IRGC targeting U.K.-based persons since January 2022 alone; while authorities in Georgia said they foiled the IRGC's attempted assassination of an Israeli-Georgian businessman in Tbilisi that same month. In addition, the U.S. Department of Justice unsealed several indictments against IRGC personnel this year for murder-for-hire schemes targeting a former national security adviser and a former Secretary of State, among others. All such incidents appear to qualify as "terrorist acts" under EU law and thus we would argue admissible under Common Position 931.

We hope that in the upcoming meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council there will be due consideration on this very important and timely issue. For many years, the IRGC has supported and participated in numerous human rights abuses and terrorist activities, including the brutal crackdown of Iranian protestors following the murder of Mahsa Amini, the attempted assassination of European citizens, and the provision of hundreds of lethal drones to Russia. We strongly urge you, and your foreign affairs ministerial colleagues, to make the decision to fully sanction, penalize and delegitimize the IRGC, to help prevent them from further threatening democracy & freedom in the United States, Europe, and around the world.

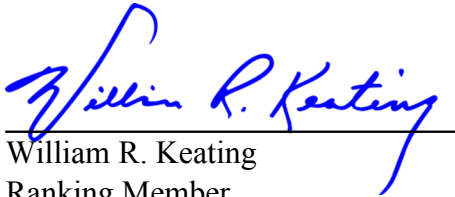
Sincerely,



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on Europe



Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



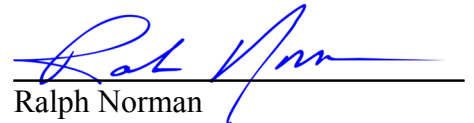
William R. Keating
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on Europe



Michael T. McCaul
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Mark E. Green, MD
Member of Congress



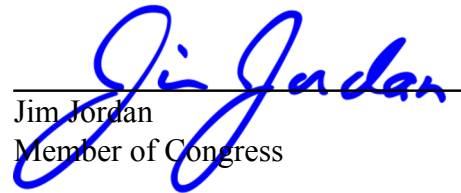
Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



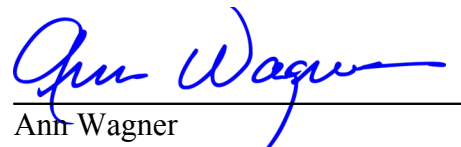
Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



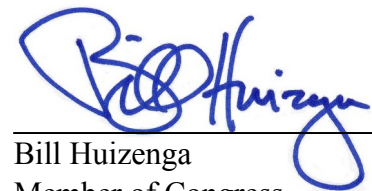
Keith Self
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



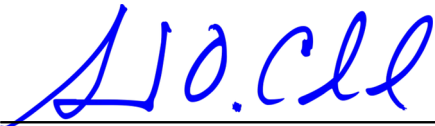
Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress




Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
Member of Congress



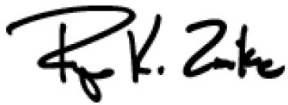
Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



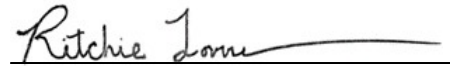
Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress




Ryan K. Zinke
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



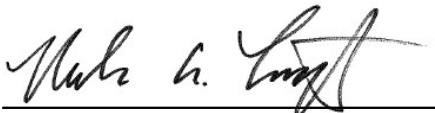
Cory Mills
Member of Congress



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress



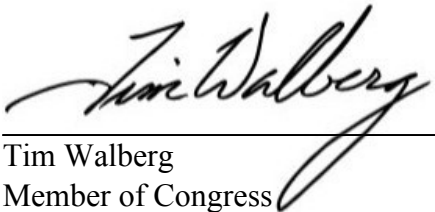
Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress



Nicholas A. Langworthy
Member of Congress



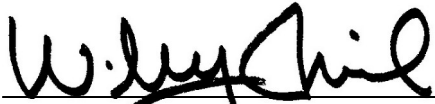
Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



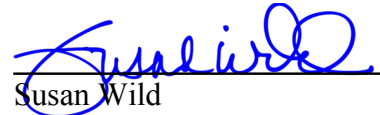
Patrick K. Ryan
Member of Congress




Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



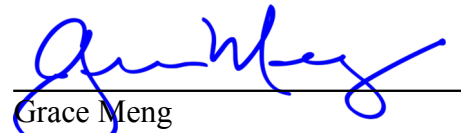
Russell Fry
Member of Congress



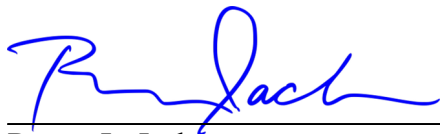
Susan Wild
Member of Congress



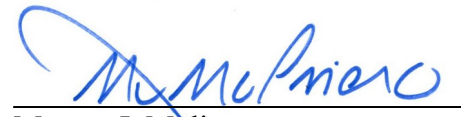
Steve Womack
Member of Congress



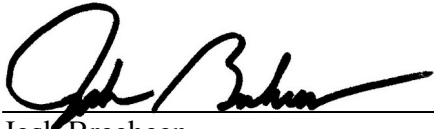
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



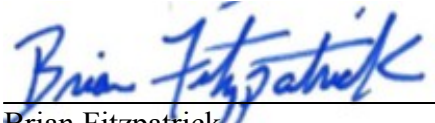
Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Marcus J. Molinaro
Member of Congress



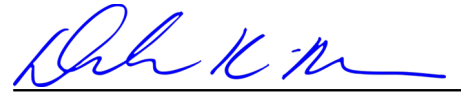
Josh Brecheen
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



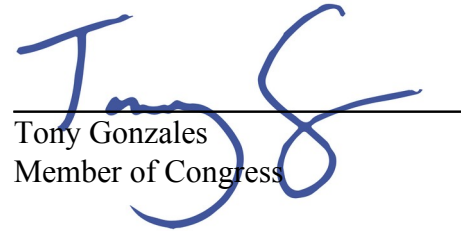
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress



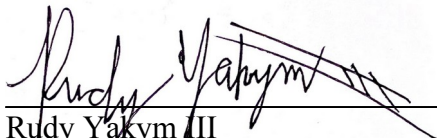
Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress




Greg Pence
Member of Congress




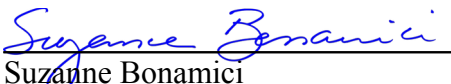
Rudy Yakym III
Member of Congress




Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress


Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Mark Alford
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress

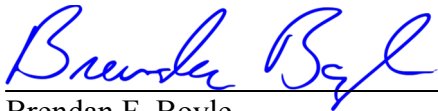

Dina Titus
Member of Congress


Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress


David J. Trone
Member of Congress

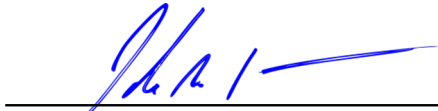

Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



John R. Curtis
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Zach Nunn
Member of Congress



Mike Garcia
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



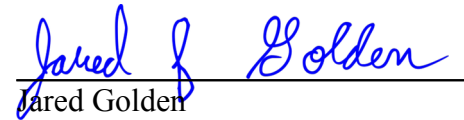
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



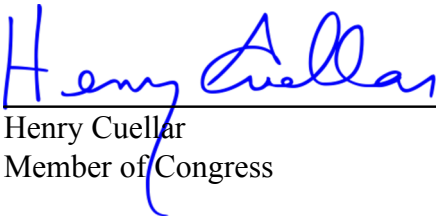
Ed Case
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress




Brandon Williams
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress

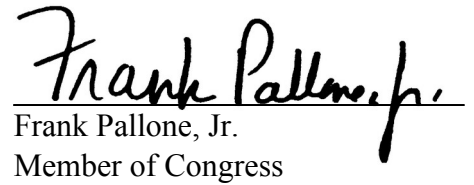


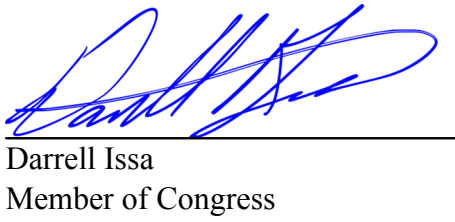
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



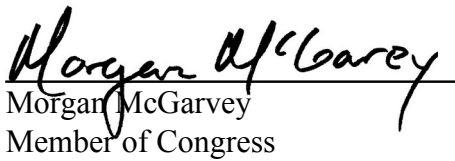
Max L. Miller
Member of Congress


Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

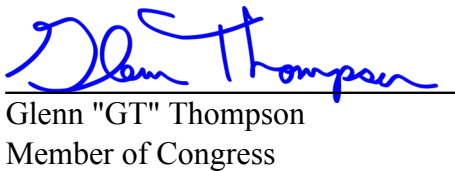

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress


Darrell Issa
Member of Congress

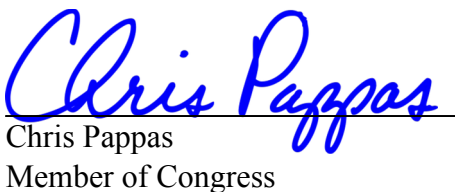

Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

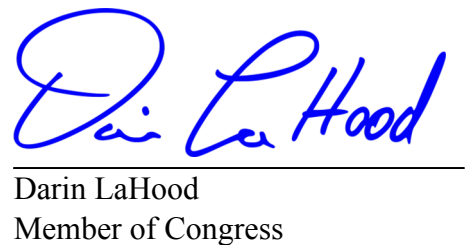

Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress

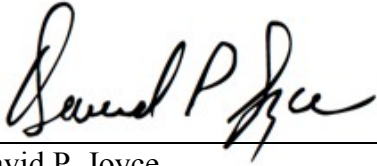

Jason Crow
Member of Congress


Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

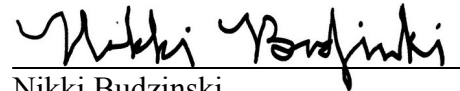

Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress


Chris Pappas
Member of Congress


Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



James Comer
Member of Congress



Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



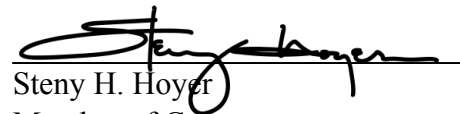
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress




Erin Houchin
Member of Congress



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



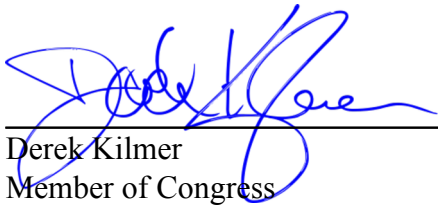
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



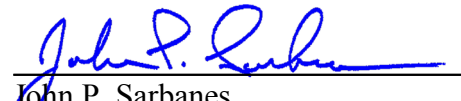
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



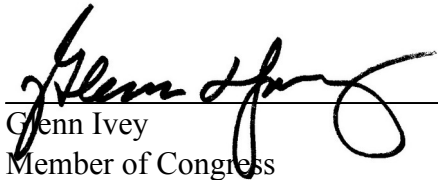
Julia Letlow
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



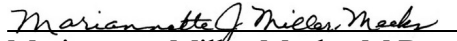
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

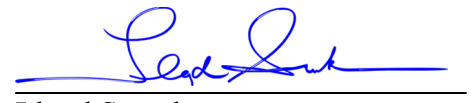



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress




Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Ken Buck
Member of Congress


Nancy Mace
Member of Congress

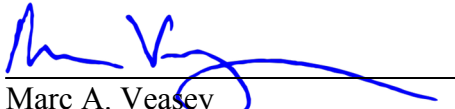

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress


Jeff Jackson
Member of Congress

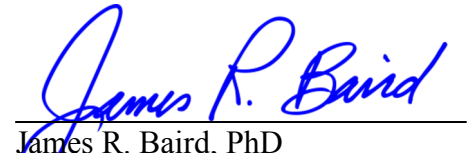

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress


Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

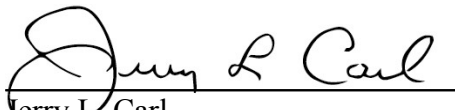

Young Kim
Member of Congress




Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



James R. Baird, PhD
Member of Congress



Jerry L. Carl
Member of Congress



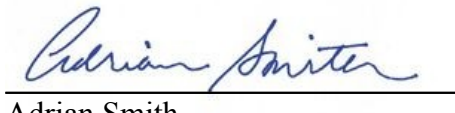
Valerie P. Foushee
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Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
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John R. Moolenaar
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