

# THE Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy INC.

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July 23, 2015

Senator Charles Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

The Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, a New York City-based nonprofit association of lawyers and legal scholars devoted to analyzing nuclear weapons policy in the framework of national and international law, submits this letter to urge your support for the agreement curbing Iran's nuclear program. It would be disastrous for the United States now to reject a carefully negotiated agreement supported by an overwhelming majority of the world's nations, including the Permanent Five members of the Security Council and all of our European allies. If the United States were now to walk away from the deal, unity among the world's major powers on crucial issues of nuclear nonproliferation would be unlikely ever to be achieved again.

Ami Ayalon, a former commander of the Israeli navy and a former director of the Shin Bet security service, stated in an interview last week that the agreement with Iran is "the best possible alternative for Israel, given the other available alternatives." (<http://forward.com/opinion/312158/this-man-explains-why-iran-deal-is-good-for-israel/>) He is right, and it is also the best available alternative for the United States. Rejection of the deal would cause the international sanctions regime to collapse, leaving Iran free to resume its nuclear program without restrictions. Even if deemed wise and lawful in the abstract, there is in practice no good military option: air strikes would at best set back the Iranian program for a few years, while risking another prolonged war in the Middle East, a war which would be opposed by most of our allies and by the United Nations. This would be a tragic mistake.

Very truly yours,

Guy Quinlan, President

John Burroughs, Executive Director

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July 23, 2015

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
478 Russell  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

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