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September 7, 2015

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write to you today as concerned elected officials from across New York, urging you and the State to continue to exercise its constitutional authority to retain existing sanctions against Iran. It is our belief that a deal of the magnitude of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action--which would restructure the geopolitical balance of an already volatile region--requires thoughtful oversight and input from all interested parties. Although it is atypical for state governments and local legislators to play a role in our nation's foreign policy, we strongly believe that it is our role as leaders to be our constituents' safety net and remain committed to continuing state sanctions against Iran.

As you know, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, entered into by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the six world leaders comprising the P5+1, is an executive agreement that sidesteps traditional diplomacy and statecraft. While we are aware of the significant power the President and the federal government have in matters of foreign policy, those powers were never meant to circumvent the political process by unilaterally entering into an agreement with a hostile nation that is, in substance a treaty, simply by calling it another name. Any executive agreement that may have a preemptive effect warrants closer inspection.

There exist important distinctions between an executive order or treaty's impact on the powers of individual states including the question as to whether or not a state is obligated to alter or repeal existing law. This limitation on executive power was intended by the Founders to protect states from a president who might one day try to circumvent the political process and the will of the American people.

An examination of the agreement with Iran reveals how dangerous it is. The lifting of the restrictions on Iran's nuclear program and the sanctions is not tied to any change in Iran's behavior. The deal does not require that Iran cease its regional aggression or its worldwide campaign of terrorism.

As you know, the New York Iran Divestment Act of 2012 already bars access to state contracts and business for companies that provide economic support to Iran and its nuclear ambitions. Crippling sanctions like these and others passed with strong bipartisan support in numerous states and at the federal level are what convinced the Iranian regime that it had no choice but to negotiate. Faced with the choice of doing business with Iran or with the United States, countries and companies around the world did the right thing—both economically and ethically. They will continue to do so if sanctions are maintained or intensified, which is essential for convincing Iran to accept a better deal.

Until such point as Iran ceases its pursuit of nuclear weapons, dismantling its military nuclear program, funding and engaging in terrorism around the world, and committing to release American hostages, the State of New York should not do business with Iran or its business partners. We have concluded that we cannot in good conscience dissolve the sanctions that the State of New York has previously placed.

We urge you and your Administration to assert its interest and the interest of its people in opposing the Iranian regime and its current egregious policies. We believe in this reasonable and necessary step to further prevent taxpayers from enriching Iran. We do hope for the day when Iran renounces terror, and look forward to extending our hand in friendship to the Iranian people.

Sincerely,



Nily Rozic
25th Assembly District



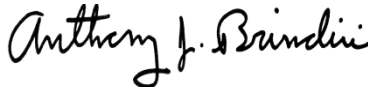
Phillip Goldfeder
23rd Assembly District




Peter J. Abbate, Jr.
49th Assembly District



Edward Braunstein
26th Assembly District



Anthony J. Brindisi
119th Assembly District



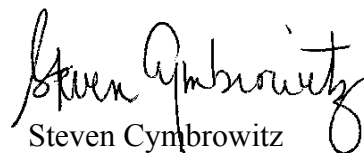
Jane L. Corwin
144th Assembly District



Brian Curran
21st Assembly District



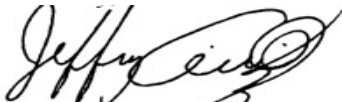
Michael J. Cusick
63rd Assembly District



Steven Cymbrowitz
45th Assembly District



Erik Martin Dilan
54th Assembly District



Jeffrey Dinowitz
81st Assembly District



David DiPietro
147th Assembly District



Gary Finch
126th Assembly District



Michael J. Fitzpatrick
8th Assembly District



Andrew Garbarino
7th Assembly District



Mark Gjonaj
80th Assembly District



Al Graf
5th Assembly District



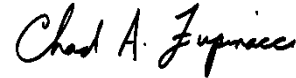
Todd Kaminsky
20th Assembly District



Brian M. Kolb
131st Assembly District



Joseph R. Lentol
50th Assembly District




Chad A. Lupinacci
10th Assembly District



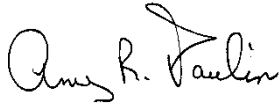
Nicole Malliotakis
64th Assembly District



Walter T. Mosley
57th Assembly District



Felix W. Ortiz
51st Assembly District



Amy Paulin
88th Assembly District



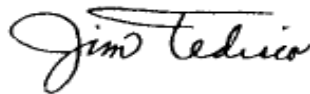
Edward P. Ra
19th Assembly District



Michael Simanowitz
27th Assembly District



Michaelle C. Solages
22nd Assembly District



James Tedisco
112th Assembly District



Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
1st Assembly District

