



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

NOV 19 2015

The Honorable
Mike Pompeo
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Pompeo:

Thank you for your September 18 letter regarding the nuclear deal with Iran.

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

The success of the JCPOA will depend not on whether it is legally binding or signed, but rather on the extensive verification measures we have put in place, 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.

Everything in the JCPOA and its annexes are commitments Iran made, and must keep, to remain in compliance. If Iran breaks these commitments, we can snap back both unilateral and UN sanctions.

We provided Congress with everything agreed to between the P5+1 and Iran in the JCPOA, in full compliance with the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (INARA). There are no "secret deals" between the P5+1 and Iran, and no JCPOA documents that Congress does not already have. The Administration is fully committed to providing information to Congress to ensure full transparency as we implement the JCPOA.

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

Sincerely,



Julia Frifield
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs