



November 28, 2012

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0103

Dear Senator Shelby:

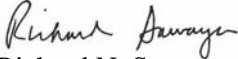
USA*ENGAGE has long argued that any economic sanctions adopted by Congress preserve the ability of the Executive branch to conduct foreign policy. We have also maintained that such sanctions be considered carefully under the discipline of regular order. Finally, we have advocated that every attempt be made when legislating economic sanctions to minimize collateral harm to the commerce of the United States, its trading partners and allies.

We therefore urge you to oppose any effort to add sanctions-related measures to S 3254, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 13. Regarding Iran, events in the Middle East continue to underscore the necessity for thoughtful diplomacy and continued common purpose with U.S. allies. A Congressional legislative ultimatum to pursue the economic collapse of Iran will hardly contribute to diplomatic success, continued allied common cause, or stated U.S. common cause with ordinary Iranians.

In the similar vein, we urge the Senate to reject the provision in the House version of defense authorization to prohibit contracting with any entity worldwide that has any connection to any commerce with countries listed by the U.S. as state sponsors of terror. Were this to become law, it would entail severely counterproductive consequences for DOD's global supply chain of U.S. companies and their foreign counterparts.

We urge you to move S 3254 free of any such extraneous amendments.

Yours sincerely,


Richard N. Sawaya
Director, USA*ENGAGE