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OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
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June 25, 2009

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

I know that you share our deep concern about the growing violence and brutality in Iran. Unfortunately, it has become clear that the cleric-backed Iranian regime has decided to end the public demonstrations through violent oppression.

Today, I am asking you to call on House committees to hold joint hearings on the situation in Iran, the policies of the United States towards Iran, and any need for changes in our policy. As you are aware, a number of senior Members of both parties have introduced various legislation to effectuate changes in U.S. policy towards Iran. The magnitude of the situation and global ramifications of the events on the ground demand close cooperation in our government between the Legislative and the Executive branches.

It is important that the Members of Congress hear from, amongst others, the following individuals:

- Secretary of State Clinton, who can speak to the diplomatic and humanitarian efforts the United States is making towards the Iranian people;
- Secretary of the Treasury Geithner, who can offer his views on the need for immediate economic sanctions to isolate the Iranian regime; and
- Special Envoy Mitchell, who can speak to the positive ramifications a free and democratic Iran could have on the entire Middle East.

Last week, the House of Representatives passed a resolution expressing support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law by a vote of 405-1. I commend you for your quick efforts to bring a bipartisan

statement on behalf of the Iranian people to the floor. And, while that resolution was a strong first step, it is clear that Congress still has an active role to play in this matter.

As we approach the celebration of our Independence Day, we should remind ourselves that we must not take for granted the liberties and freedoms with which we are blessed. We must meet our obligation as leaders of the free world to assist others who desire those basic rights in their own countries.

I look forward to hearing from you on this urgent matter.

With kind regards, I am

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Cantor", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric I. Cantor
Republican Whip