



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable
Jared Huffman
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

FEB 15 2019

Dear Mr. Huffman:

Thank you for your letter of December 21, 2018 regarding concerns about the humanitarian impact of U.S. sanctions related to Iran.

U.S. sanctions aim to convince the Iranian regime to change its destructive behavior, including its support for terrorists and violent proxies, ballistic missile proliferation, human rights violations, and unjust detention of both Iranian and foreign citizens. While the Administration seeks to counter the full scope of the regime's malign behavior, it continues to stand with the Iranian people who have long suffered as a result of the regime's policies.

U.S. sanctions also seek to diminish the revenue the Iranian regime has available to fund terror and foment instability. Allies and partners from around the world share U.S. concern and a sense of urgency in addressing the threats posed by the Iranian regime. The Department of State remains closely engaged with U.S. partners and allies in efforts to end the regime's destabilizing behavior.

The United States maintains broad authorizations and exceptions that allow for the sale of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, and medical devices by U.S. and non-U.S. persons to non-designated persons in Iran. The Administration understands the importance of these activities for the Iranian people, and U.S. policy does not target this type of trade. Moreover, the sanctions architecture that is in place ensures that revenue that is denied the regime for destructive purposes remains available to it in what are essentially escrow accounts it may use for non-sanctioned humanitarian trade.

As a result, the facts bear out that the Iranian government alone bears the responsibility for the economic hardships of its people. The regime's decision to prioritize a revolutionary agenda over the welfare of the Iranian people has come at the expense of ordinary Iranians. Instead of investing in efforts to improve its people's livelihood, Iran's leaders have diverted billions of dollars to terrorist organizations and proxy militias.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

