United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 1, 2007

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

We are writing to express serious concerns with the provocative statements and actions stemming from your administration with respect to possible U.S. military action in Iran. These comments are counterproductive and undermine efforts to resolve tensions with Iran through diplomacy.

We wish to emphasize that no congressional authority exists for unilateral military action against Iran. This includes the Senate vote on September 26, 2007 on an amendment to the FY 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. This amendment, expressing the sense of the Senate on Iran, and the recent designation of the Quds Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist, should in no way be interpreted as a predicate for the use of military force in Iran.

We stand ready to work with your administration to address the challenges presented by Iran in a manner that safeguards our security interests and promotes a regional diplomatic solution, but we wish to emphasize that offensive military action should not be taken against Iran without the express consent of Congress.

Sincerely,

Jim Webb

John F. Kerry

Robert C. Byrd

Dick Durbin

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Patrick Leahy

Hub Kohl

Jack Reed

Tom Carper

Carl Boyd

Tyler Johnson

Sam Thorne

Chris Dodd

Dianne Feinstein

Byron L. Dorgan

Tom Harkin

Max Baucus

Daniel K. Akaka

Debbie Stabenow

Carl M. Cashell

Amy Klobuchar

Jay Rockefeller

Bernie Sanders

Bob Casey, Jr.

Patty Murray

Ron Wyden

Jon Tester