



STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Michael R. Pence
Governor

December 14, 2015

The Honorable Peter J. Roskam
U.S. House of Representatives
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Roskam,

I was pleased to learn that you recently introduced H. Con. Res. 100, which expresses the sense of Congress regarding the right of states and local governments to maintain economic sanctions against Iran.

In Paragraph 25 of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed to earlier this year by the Obama Administration and the governments of Iran and several other countries, the federal government agreed to “actively encourage” states to lift state-level sanctions against Iran such as divestment and contracting restriction laws.

I do not support the lifting of Indiana’s state-level sanctions against Iran, and I appreciate the confirmation expressed in H. Con. Res. 100 for Indiana and other states to be able to maintain their sanctions against Iran. A majority of states across the country have taken such action.

Indiana currently maintains a divestment law for invested state pension funds, a restriction on state and local contractors from providing goods or services in excess of \$20 million to the energy sector of Iran or lending more than \$20 million to another person that will provide goods and services to the Iranian energy sector, and a prohibition on public funds being invested in a financial institution that otherwise would not qualify as a state contractor because of investment or business dealings in Iran.

Indiana’s divestment law requires divestment of the Indiana Public Retirement System portfolio from securities invested in companies that do business in countries that are designated by the U.S. Department of State as a state sponsor of terror. Iran is so designated, along with Sudan and Syria.

To enforce the contractor restriction, the Indiana Department of Administration uses a list maintained by California’s Department of General Services of businesses that do business or invest in Iran beyond the statutory limits. Moreover, if Indiana finds that a contractor or vendor does invest in Iran, the Attorney General may then determine whether to bring a civil action. A court may impose a fine against the contractor and order costs paid to the state.

I commend you for introducing H. Con. Res. 100, and if I can be of assistance as it moves through the legislative process please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your service in the Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Pence". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael R. Pence
Governor of Indiana