



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4302

March 19, 2015

The Honorable James R. Clapper
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Mr. Clapper:

We are writing to you to express our concern regarding the omission of Iran and Hezbollah from the “terrorism” section of the 2015 Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community. This glaring omission requires a full and detailed explanation.

This omission is even more striking given that the 2014 Worldwide Threat Assessment states that Iran and Hezbollah are persistent threats to U.S. interests overseas. The 2014 report notes Hezbollah’s continued and direct threat to U.S. allies and describes the sharp increase in the groups’ activities that reached a level unseen since the 1990s. Given Hezbollah’s steady pace of activities since the conclusion of the 2014 assessment, to include the groups’ actions in support of the Assad regime in Syria and aggressive actions against Israel, we are deeply concerned that the 2015 assessment makes absolutely no mention of Iran or Hezbollah other than that Hezbollah is a target for Sunni extremists. Iran is in fact the most prolific state-sponsor of Shia terrorism around the globe—carried out, in part, by its proxy Hezbollah.

We are left to conclude that it is the position of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence that Iran and Hezbollah do not represent a terrorist threat to U.S. interests or our allies abroad. Please provide a detailed written explanation as to why Iran and Hezbollah were left out of the terrorism section of the 2015 assessment and explain whether or not the Office of the Director of National Intelligence believes Iran and Hezbollah pose a terrorist threat to U.S. interests abroad and those of our allies.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Ted Poe, consisting of a series of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ted Poe
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I' and 'R'.

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



Darrell E. Issa
Member of Congress



Tom Marino
Member of Congress



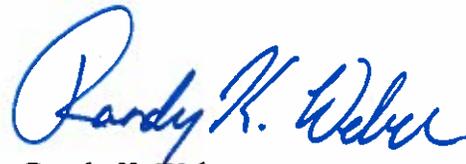
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



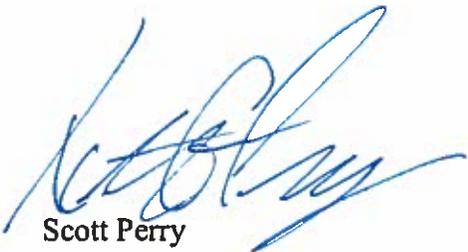
Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Ron DeSantis
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho
Member of Congress



Lee M. Zeldin
Member of Congress



Christopher Smith
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



David Trott
Member of Congress



Curt Clawson
Member of Congress