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United States Senate

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January 27, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

I write to you to express deep concern regarding a troubling statement an Iranian lawmaker made to the Iranian Parliament earlier this week. Ahmad Hamzeh, who represents the hometown province of deceased General Qasem Soleimani, announced to parliament on behalf of the people of his province a bounty of three million dollars to whoever kills the President of the United States, Donald Trump. Mr. Hamzeh continued his address urging Iran to reinstate their nuclear weapons ambitions, while encouraging attacks on U.S. embassies and military bases.

Mr. Hamzeh's comments are in response to the recent U.S. drone strike that killed known designated terrorist, General Soleimani. Soleimani was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of American and coalition service members and was considered the second most powerful person in Iran behind the Ayatollah. The actions of Soleimani and the words of Mr. Hamzeh are a reflection of the dangerous ideology and continued ambition of the Iranian government to be a state sponsor of terrorism. This radical statement made by Mr. Hamzeh is a direct threat to the President, U.S. Embassies, military bases, and American men and women across the world, and I ask you to place Ahmad Hamzeh on Treasury's Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list. This action would effectively impose sanctions against Mr. Hamzeh, blocking him from all his foreign assets and preventing any U.S. persons from engaging in any dealings with Mr. Hamzeh.

I applaud Treasury's current sanction efforts to eliminate Iran's nuclear objectives, and I encourage you to further increase pressure on individuals in the Iranian government, like Mr. Hamzeh, who seek to do harm to the United States and our allies. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



John Kennedy
U.S. Senator