



United States House of Representatives  
One Hundred Eighteenth Congress  
Committee on Financial Services  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

November 2, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
2201 C St NW.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

**Re: Waiver of Sanctions with Respect to the Trade Bank of Iraq in Connection with the Purchase of Electricity and with Respect to Funds Transfers to Financial Institutions in Certain Third-Country Jurisdictions**

Dear Secretary Blinken:

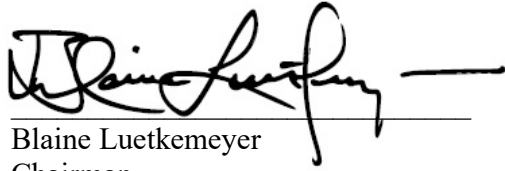
We are extremely concerned by the potential that Iran may use funds received through sanctions relief to continue its long-standing support of terrorism. Therefore, we urge you not to renew the sanctions waiver transmitted to Congress on July 18, 2023 (attachment A) until a thorough review is conducted to determine whether such relief is still warranted. Along with the very real threat of financing terrorism, the July sanctions waiver, which is set to expire on November 15, 2023, is concerning to Congress on a number of fronts. For example, the waiver differed materially from previous waivers not only because it allowed transactions to be conducted in euros, but it also authorized funds to be moved offshore to Oman, Germany, or France.

Moreover, these types of sanctions waivers have been issued in the past facilitating Iraq's purchase of electricity directly from Iran only in Iraqi dinars from Iraqi banks. As the winter solstice approaches, there may be a reduction in Iraqi demand for electricity – limiting the need for a waiver. Finally, reports reveal that Iraq is making progress on establishing links to other neighboring countries to eliminate its dependence on Iranian electricity.

All of these factors dictate that the Department of State conduct a thorough review to determine whether: 1) the waiver relief provided on July 18, 2023, deviated from previous waivers; 2) the demand for Iranian electricity in the winter solstice necessitates the continued waiver; and 3) if Iraq has eliminated its dependence on Iranian electricity.

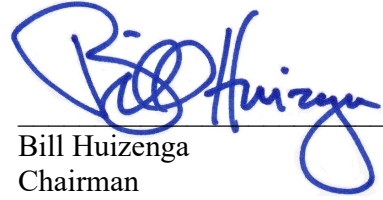
I look forward to the Department of State's review and determination of the sanctions waiver. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nels Nordquist or Meghan Schmidlein at 202-225-7502.

Sincerely,



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Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Security,  
Illicit Finance, and International  
Financial Institutions



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Bill Huizenga  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and  
Investigations

Attachment: Waiver of Sanctions with Respect to the Trade Bank of Iraq in Connection with the Purchase of Electricity and with Respect to Funds Transfers to Financial Institutions in Certain Third-Country Jurisdictions, dated July 18, 2023