

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

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August 22, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Mr. President:

I have received the Administration's proposal for amending the Iran Nonproliferation Act (INA). Potential modifications to the INA have important implications with respect to both foreign policy and space policy. As a result, I look forward to working closely with the Administration during Congress's consideration of the proposal.

To that end, I believe it is important to have a clear understanding of the Administration's rationale for seeking the proposed amendment. In particular, I would request that you provide for the record the specific reasons the Administration has decided that it could not utilize any of the following existing provisions of the INA to acquire needed International Space Station-related goods and services:

1. The Presidential determination contained in Sec. 6 (b) in the Act [I understand that the answer to this may require a classified communication to the Committee]
2. The exception in Sec. 6 (f) for crew safety, i.e., "to prevent the imminent loss of life by or grievous injury to individuals aboard the International Space Station..."
3. The exception in Sec. 6 (g) for maintenance of the Service Module.

In addition, there are three other potential means that have been identified for acquiring needed ISS-related goods and services without amending the INA. I would request that you provide for the record the specific reasons the Administration has decided that it could not utilize any of them:

1. Energia, the entity that manufactures the Soyuz, has produced documentation that it asserts shows that it has not been an organization or entity under the control of the Russian Aviation and Space Agency as defined by Sec. 7(5) of the Act, and thus it would not be governed by the conditions of Sec. 6(b)(3).

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2. The 1996 Balance Agreement, which predates the INA, has been identified as a potential mechanism for obtaining the needed ISS-related goods and services by means of an amendment of that Agreement.
3. The United States and Russia could reach an agreement that needed ISS-related goods and services will be provided to NASA at no cost as part of a broader cooperative arrangement pertaining either to the overall ISS partnership or to U.S.-Russian science and technology cooperation.

Your cooperation in providing the above-requested information will greatly assist the Committee in our consideration of the proposed amendment. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bart Gordon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

BART GORDON  
Ranking Member