

NEWS

House Foreign Affairs Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

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January 30, 2007

For IMMEDIATE Release

Ros-Lehtinen Comments on Reports of Energy Deals with Iran

(WASHINGTON) –U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Ranking Republican member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, commented Tuesday on published reports that Royal Dutch Shell and Repsol have signed a preliminary agreement with the state oil company in Iran to develop natural gas fields in an area known as South Pars. Shell, a Dutch firm, and Repsol, a Spanish firm, have operations in the United States. Statement of Ros-Lehtinen:

Iran's economy is largely dependent on earnings from its energy sector. The deal announced today, if actually made, will strengthen Iran's capability to use energy profits to further accelerate its nuclear programs.

On its face, such an investment would likely violate provisions of the Iran Freedom Support Act, and the two companies and their North American subsidiaries must be held accountable.

The flurry of proposed investments in Iran that have been reported in the last month—including China's CNOOC, Malaysia's SKS, France's Total, the Australian LNG Company, Thailand's PTT Chemical, and South Korea's LG, among others—demonstrates a willingness to place profit above security.

Responsible nations must work together to stop these lucrative investments in Iran, whose unbridled nuclear ambitions pose a threat to all of us.

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