

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1809

To require the development of strategies and options to prevent the export to Iran of certain technologies related to unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 27, 2023

Mr. KEATING (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Ms. TENNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To require the development of strategies and options to prevent the export to Iran of certain technologies related to unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Block the Use of  
5 Transatlantic Technology in Iranian Made Drones Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federa-  
2           tion initiated a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

3           (2) The Russian Federation’s war of aggression  
4           against Ukraine first began in 2014.

5           (3) In response to the Russian Federation’s  
6           brutal war of aggression against Ukraine, the  
7           United States, and allies and partners of the United  
8           States, have enacted punitive sanctions against the  
9           Russian Federation, further limiting the access of  
10          the Russian Federation to critical technologies that  
11          could support such war of aggression.

12          (4) Since February 2022, the Russian Federa-  
13          tion has bombarded Ukrainian infrastructure and lo-  
14          cations actively used by civilians, using both cruise  
15          missiles and self-detonating unmanned aircrafts  
16          packed with explosives during these waves of at-  
17          tacks.

18          (5) Following these attacks, weapons used by  
19          the Russian Federation have been thoroughly ana-  
20          lyzed and it has been discovered that the Russian  
21          Federation is increasingly using unmanned aircraft  
22          systems produced and sold by Iran.

23          (6) In November 2022, it was reported that the  
24          Russian Federation and Iran made a deal wherein

1 Iran would produce hundreds of unmanned aircrafts  
2 for the Russian Federation.

3 (7) Unmanned aircraft systems produced by  
4 Iran and used in Ukraine by the Russian Federa-  
5 tion, including unmanned aircraft downed in  
6 Ukraine, were found to have been made with compo-  
7 nents designed and built by United States and Euro-  
8 pean companies and later transferred to Iranian en-  
9 tities despite sanctions as a result of the dual use  
10 properties of such components.

11 (8) The Biden Administration has established  
12 an interagency task force to investigate how United  
13 States and Western-made technology has been incor-  
14 porated into unmanned aircraft systems produced by  
15 Iran and take appropriate steps in response.

16 (9) On January 6th, 2023, the Biden Adminis-  
17 tration enacted new sanctions targeting the un-  
18 manned aircraft industry and missile industry of  
19 Iran, designating seven individuals in leadership po-  
20 sitions with Qods Aviation Industries and the Aero-  
21 space Industries Organization of Iran.

22 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

23 It is the sense of Congress that—

24 (1) controlling the end use of dual use tech-  
25 nology and highly ubiquitous parts thereof in the

1 global market is difficult for manufacturers and gov-  
2 ernment regulators alike;

3 (2) the United States, along with the allies and  
4 partners of the United States, must continue to sup-  
5 port Ukraine in the Ukrainian fight for freedom,  
6 independence, and democracy; and

7 (3) the United States, along with the allies and  
8 partners of the United States, must ensure that  
9 technology designed or produced by United States  
10 entities is not used to support the Russian Federa-  
11 tion's war of aggression against Ukraine, particu-  
12 larly in the case of unmanned aircraft systems pro-  
13 duced by Iran.

14 **SEC. 4. STRATEGIES TO PREVENT EXPORT TO IRAN OF**  
15 **CERTAIN TECHNOLOGIES RELATED TO UN-**  
16 **MANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.**

17 (a) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE STRATEGY.—

18 (1) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of  
19 Commerce (in consultation with the Secretary of  
20 State, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of  
21 the elements of the intelligence community) shall de-  
22 velop a strategy to supplement the existing sanctions  
23 regime of the United States against Iran by pre-  
24 venting the export to Iran by United States persons  
25 regarding technologies used or that may be used in

1 the design, development, production, or operational  
2 employment of unmanned aircraft systems by Iran,  
3 including the following microelectronics:

4 (A) Microcontrollers.

5 (B) Voltage regulators.

6 (C) Digital signal controllers.

7 (D) GPS modules.

8 (E) Microprocessors.

9 (F) Circuit board components.

10 (2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy under paragraph  
11 (1) shall include, at a minimum, the following ele-  
12 ments:

13 (A) A process for the Secretary of Com-  
14 merce (in coordination with the Secretaries and  
15 heads specified in paragraph (1)) to proactively  
16 identify—

17 (i) current and emerging technologies  
18 used or that may be used by Iran in the  
19 design, development, production, or oper-  
20 ational employment of unmanned aircraft  
21 systems (including critical components  
22 thereof); and

23 (ii) United States manufacturers of  
24 such technologies.

1           (B) A process for the Secretary of Com-  
2 merce (in coordination with the Secretaries and  
3 heads specified in paragraph (1)) to proactively  
4 identify third-party distributors and resellers of  
5 the technologies specified in subparagraph  
6 (A)(i) that, through the use of intermediaries  
7 with no or nominal operations or assets, or  
8 through other mechanisms, contrive to cir-  
9 cumvent sanctions and export controls for such  
10 items with respect to Iran.

11           (C) A methodology for the Secretary of  
12 Commerce to proactively engage the United  
13 States manufacturers identified pursuant to the  
14 process under subparagraph (A)(ii), to provide  
15 such manufacturers with timely updates to the  
16 list of third-party distributors and resellers  
17 identified pursuant to the process under sub-  
18 paragraph (B).

19           (3) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 60 days after  
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
21 of Commerce shall submit to the appropriate con-  
22 gressional committees the strategy under paragraph  
23 (1).

24           (4) FORM.—The report required by subsection  
25 (a)(1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but

1 portions of the report described in paragraphs (1)  
2 and (2) may contain a classified annex, so long as  
3 such annex is provided separately from the unclassi-  
4 fied report.

5 (b) DEPARTMENT OF STATE STRATEGY.—

6 (1) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of  
7 State (in coordination with the Secretary of Com-  
8 merce, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of  
9 the elements of the intelligence community) shall de-  
10 velop a strategy to engage with European and Asian  
11 allies and partners of the United States regarding  
12 technologies which are used, or may be used, by Iran  
13 in the design, development, production, or oper-  
14 ational employment of unmanned aircraft systems  
15 (including the microelectronics listed in subpara-  
16 graphs (A) through (F) of subsection (a)(1)), to pre-  
17 vent the export of such technologies to Iran by such  
18 allies and partners.

19 (2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy under paragraph  
20 (1) shall include, at a minimum, the following ele-  
21 ments:

22 (A) A process for the Secretary of State  
23 (in consultation with the relevant Secretaries  
24 and heads specified in paragraph (1)) to

1           proactively identify foreign manufacturers of  
2           the technologies referred to in such paragraph.

3           (B) A process for the Secretary of State to  
4           engage with any ally or partner of the United  
5           States regarding technologies which have been  
6           incorporated into an unmanned aircraft system  
7           produced by Iran, for the purpose of synchro-  
8           nizing the export control regime of such ally or  
9           partner with the United States export controls  
10          developed by the Secretary of Commerce pursu-  
11          ant to the strategy under subsection (a) with  
12          respect to such technology.

13          (3) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 60 days after  
14          the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
15          of State shall submit to the appropriate congress-  
16          sional committees the strategy under paragraph (1).

17          (4) FORM.—The report required by subsection  
18          (b)(1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but  
19          portions of the report described in paragraphs (1)  
20          and (2) may contain a classified annex, so long as  
21          such annex is provided separately from the unclassi-  
22          fied report.

23          (c) REQUIREMENT FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO  
24          DEVELOP RANGE OF OPTIONS.—



1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after  
2           the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
3           of Defense (in coordination with the Secretary of  
4           State and the heads of the elements of the intel-  
5           ligence community) shall develop a range of options  
6           that may be employed by the Armed Forces of the  
7           United States to counter or otherwise deny Iran the  
8           ability to acquire technologies used, or that may be  
9           used, in the design, development, production, or  
10          operational employment of unmanned aircraft sys-  
11          tems by Iran, including the following technologies:

12                   (A) Microcontrollers.

13                   (B) Voltage regulators.

14                   (C) Digital signal controllers.

15                   (D) GPS modules.

16                   (E) Microprocessors.

17                   (F) Circuit board components.

18                   (G) Computer Aided Design (CAD) soft-  
19          ware.

20                   (H) Computer numerical control machines.

21          (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 45 days after  
22          the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
23          of Defense shall provide to the appropriate congres-  
24          sional committees a briefing on the options devel-  
25          oped under paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**  
4 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
5 mittees” means the following:

6 (A) The Committee on Foreign Affairs, the  
7 Committee on Armed Services, the Committee  
8 on Ways and Means, and the Permanent Select  
9 Committee on Intelligence of the House of Rep-  
10 resentatives.

11 (B) The Committee on Foreign Relations,  
12 the Committee on Armed Services, the Com-  
13 mittee on Finance, and the Permanent Select  
14 Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

15 (2) **INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.**—The term  
16 “intelligence community” has the meaning given  
17 that term in section 3 of the National Security Act  
18 of 1957 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

19 (3) **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT; UNMANNED AIR-**  
20 **CRAFT SYSTEM.**—The terms “unmanned aircraft”  
21 and “unmanned aircraft system” have the meanings  
22 given those terms in section 130i of title 10, United  
23 States Code.

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