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Dear Colleagues,

Thank you so much for taking the time to listen to HB 2287. I know often bills related to divestiture and KPERS often come with some angst and concern...and they should. Many might start to divest of China, India and others and cause calamity. I get that fear, but it should not apply to this bill. There is not another nation today that is as violent a threat to the U.S. and our interests than Iran.

- Early in November 2011, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) issued an unprecedented and detailed report providing the agency's confirmation that Iran is closing in on the capability to produce nuclear weapons.
- The IAEA revealed that Iran has procured nuclear-related and dual-use equipment and materials from military sources.
- Similarly, the IAEA found undisclosed facilities for producing nuclear material, which are the core of a weapon. Also, Iran has attempted to develop an original design of a nuclear weapon.
- Additionally, Iran has developed experimental and testing equipment for nuclear weapons. Iran has conducted computer models of nuclear explosions and experiments on nuclear triggers used to detonate a bomb.
- Iran has embarked in the development of missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons.
- Iran is the leading state sponsor of terrorism. Iran supports Hamas, Hezbollah and is arming the insurgents who are combating U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- A nuclear-armed Iran is a threat to America and all people of good will as it has sponsored terrorism globally without a weapon of mass destruction, obtaining nuclear arms could cause instability and unimaginable tragedy.
- For these reasons, it is imperative that Iran stop its nuclear weapons program.

Friends, Iran is a legitimate threat to our nation, our troops and our KPERS program. Any company that has interests in IRAN could have their interests nationalized which would harm those companies values....which in turn hurts our pension recipients.

I would also like to bring attention to South Dakota's effects on the market place with their version of this legislation. Two days after it's signature, BP Petroleum divest of everything in Iran because of their need of the SD dollars. Imagine how companies would respond to a bigger state like Kansas.

This is the right thing to do. I appreciate the hard work KPERS will have to do to comply, but the soldiers who fight terrorism and our recipients will appreciate your attention to HB 2287 even more. Please pass this bill.

Representative Scott Schwab
49th District