

A Reader Says

Kudos to Rep. Aguilar for Iran stance

Redlands Area Democratic Club President Kristin Washington wrote to Rep. Pete Aguilar a few days ago expressing our members' strong support for the Iran nuclear agreement, and setting forth our reasoning. While our arguments undoubtedly were not the deciding factors, we were nonetheless delighted to learn of his robust and carefully thought-out endorsement of the deal shortly thereafter.

By contrast, Paul Chabot's Aug. 29 editorial ("Why Congress Must Vote Against Iran Nuclear

Deal") makes clear he is an unapologetic hawk, seemingly prepared to scuttle the deal, blockade Iran if necessary, and commit U.S. ground troops following a first strike by Israel.

Having apparently bought into the discredited Bush rationale for our war in Iraq, Dr. Chabot now believes that further military engagement in the Middle East is both necessary and desirable; and that international peacekeeping efforts, including this agreement, are essentially a waste of time.

Most Americans and local Democrats assuredly are not on board with such bellicose views. A very good case can be made,

in fact, that our Iraq misadventure has fueled the rise of ISIS and made Iran (which ironically also opposes ISIS) even stronger. Dr. Chabot seemingly has either not paid attention to such inconvenient history or (with flair, I must admit) simply parades out his special blend of misleading ideology.

In short, we are very grateful Rep. Aguilar was chosen by voters in this district to represent us in Congress instead of Dr. Chabot. And it follows that we think this is all the more reason for them to do so again when the campaign rivalry renews.

— Roger Bell, *vice president of the Redlands Area Democratic Club*