IRAN COUNTER-PROLIFERATION ACT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important, bipartisan legislation—the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007—which has more than 300 cosponsors.

This bill would greatly strengthen the existing sanctions regime and propose new diplomatic strategies with respect to Iran, which continues to pursue its nuclear agenda in defiance of U.N. sanctions and international pressure.

Let us be clear: The Government of Iran—which is recognized as a state sponsor of terrorism by our State Department and which supports terrorist groups such as Hezbollah—believes it can exploit international irresolution. We must not allow it to do so.

It goes without saying that a nuclear-armed Iran constitutes a threat to the national security interests of the United States, as well as the peace and security of the international community. And, we cannot overlook the serious questions raised about Iran's efforts to exploit the civil war in Iraq to its advantage or intelligence information related to its arming of Iraqi insurgents.

Our concerns are only heightened by the inflammatory and irresponsible statements of Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has stated his hope for a ''world without America'' and his desire ''to wipe Israel off the map.''

Let me say, Ahmadinejad's comments yesterday at Columbia University in New York only confirm the view that he is a dangerous menace, who spins loathsome propaganda while denying that the Holocaust occurred, threatening Israel, and repressing his own people.

I believe the international community must stand as one against Iran, an international lawbreaker whose record of deceit and belligerence leaves no doubt as to its motivations.

Thus, I believe this legislation is an important step forward in demonstrating our bipartisan resolve to address the serious security concerns posed by Iran.

Nothing in this act authorizes the use of force against Iran. However, it would support diplomatic and economic means to resolve the Iranian nuclear problem, and calls for enhanced U.N. Security Council efforts to respond to Iran's defiance.

Furthermore, the bill amends the Iran Sanctions Act to remove the President's waiver on sanctions, and expands the types of investments subject to sanctions. It reforms our commercial relationship with this rogue regime by limiting the export of U.S. items to Iran and by prohibiting all imports.

Among other things, the bill also prevents U.S. subsidiaries of foreign oil companies that invest in Iran's oil sector from receiving U.S. tax benefits for oil and gas exploration, and prevents nuclear cooperation between the United States and any country that provides nuclear assistance in Iran.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important bipartisan bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, on Monday August 24, I was unavoidably detained due to official business in New York and was not present for a number of rollcall votes.

Had I been present I would have voted:

''Yea'' on rollcall 891, H. Con. Res. 193, recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety.

''Yea'' on rollcall 892, H. Res. 668, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the September 25, 1957, desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine.

''Yea'' on rollcall 893, H.R. 1199, to extend the grant program for drug-endangered children.

''Yea'' on rollcall 894, H. Res. 340, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives of the importance of providing a voice for the many victims (and families of victims) involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases.

HONORING THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION OF EL PASOAN PAUL L. FOSTER TO TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise to recognize Mr. Paul L. Foster, the president and CEO of Western Refining Inc. of El Paso, who, with a strong desire to give back to the El Paso community, donated $50 million to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. That's right, Madam Speaker—$50 million of his own money.

Foster's selfless contribution, the largest donation given to Texas Tech by an individual in the history of the university, will allow for great advances in border health issues research and various other health care initiatives. The gift will support the recruitment of staff members, finance faculty salaries, and purchase necessary medical equipment. In acknowledgment of his donation, the university named El Paso's 4-year medical school the ''Paul L. Foster School of Medicine.'' Unique to the area, it is the first medical school on the U.S.-Mexico border and only the second new medical institution created in the U.S. in the last 25 years. Although a medical school of such stature and prestige has been greatly needed for the El Paso community for some time, it is now becoming a reality, in part due to Mr. Foster's assistance.

The Paul F. Foster School holds many prospects for medical science and healthcare. Increased specialized physicians coupled with superior medical equipment will allow for substantial economic growth in the El Paso region along with quality health care for my constituents. It will also provide greater incentives for researchers to come to the area and learn about and help solve health issues unique to the U.S.-Mexico border.

A 1979 Baylor University graduate, Foster founded Western Refining Inc. in 1997, which is currently the Nation's fourth largest publicly traded independent oil refinery. Despite his tremendous success, Paul remains modest, humble, and connected to our local community. The magnitude of his generous gift will be felt for generations, yet in typical fashion he seeks none of the attention that such a gift merits.

I have always believed it is critically important that we continue to pave the way for greater healthcare infrastructure in El Paso and along the U.S.-Mexico border, and the 4-year medical school can serve as the cornerstone in this effort. This vision, this dream, is one step closer with the huge charitable contribution of Paul Foster.

As the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine pays tribute to this remarkable philanthropist, I would like to do the same. His contribution to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center will prove extremely beneficial to the El Paso community and to aspiring doctors and nurses in our region.

IN HONOR OF THE CARMEL WRITERS FESTIVAL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the inaugural Writer's Festival in my hometown of Carmel, California. As co-chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, I would like to commend the organizers, Jim and Cindy McGillen, for their efforts to initiate the first ever Carmel Authors & Ideas Festival, which will take place at the Sunset Center in Carmel on September 28–30 this year.

Inspired by the Sun Valley Writers' Conference, the format of the festival is to be a combination of talks by well-known authors and break-out sessions with lesser-known writers, allowing attendees to interact with them on an informal basis. The first line-up of authors includes Frank McCourt, ''Angela's Ashes''; Doris Kearns Goodwin, historian; John Grogan, ''Marley and Me''; Douglas Brinkley, editor of ''The Regan Diaries''; Seymour Hersh, investigative reporter; Irshad Manji, critic of radical Islam; and Elizabeth Edwards, ''Saving Graces.'' In all, 25 award winning authors will be present, including Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize winners, and New York Times Best Sellers.

Carmel Mayor Sue McCloud said of the festival, ''It's certainly in keeping with our history as a writers' haven and artists' haven.'' Boutique conferences like this one are a good match for the community which is known for its non-traditional approach to literature and poetry. McGillen has sought out authors who are interesting, compelling, and entertaining.

Madam Speaker, this festival promises to be an exciting new addition to the lineup of high quality cultural events enjoyed year-round in California's 17th District, and I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Congress.