

Agency, IAEA, inspectors to visit this facility was a positive sign, but not a sufficient indication of their willingness to comply with international agreements. The recent announcement that Iran will accept a nuclear fuel deal is also indicative of their willingness to engage in dialogue, though it remains to be seen what amendments they will seek to the deal. While these actions indicate a small degree of improvement in Iran's position, the legislation before us today demonstrates that only continued dialogue and positive actions will soften the international community's stance towards Iran.

I would also like to emphasize that the legislation before us provides only one tool for achieving Iran's compliance with international nonproliferation agreements. I continue to support the administration's policy of engagement with Iran and use of diplomatic talks. I believe that diplomacy and multilateralism are the most valuable tools we have to create change in Iran. After those tools fail, I believe that the sanctions are an appropriate recourse.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to avoid embellishments in their unanimous consent requests.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield, unfortunately only 1 minute to the author of the mandatory procurement sanctions in this legislation, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN).

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly support the Iran sanctions conference report, including robust sanctions on refined petroleum in Iran.

I am proud that the final bill includes my amendment requiring companies that are applying for contracts with the United States Government to affirmatively certify that they do not conduct business with Iran.

This legislation gives companies a simple choice: Do business with the United States or do business with Iran. We cannot allow Iran to continue its pursuit of nuclear weapons—not on our watch and certainly not on our dime.

As a conferee, I am proud that the final bill also takes into account any developments that have arisen in recent months. Iran is attempting to circumvent global sanctions, and this bill seeks to cut off their strategies, such as Iranian investments with companies like BP and joint ventures outside of Iran.

I would also like to thank Chairman BERMAN and Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN for their leadership.

I urge my colleagues to support the conference agreement.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), the author of the country's first state of Iran disinvestment legislation.

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

"Today, this body has the opportunity to profoundly advance the security of our nation and our allies. Today, this body can pass crippling new economic sanctions on Iran and at long last deliver the bill to the desk of the President.

"The stakes could not be higher. Again and again, Ahmadinejad has called for the destruction of our ally Israel and he has spoken of a world without the United States. This behavior is intolerable and today Congress sends the clear message to Iran that their pursuit of nuclear weapons will not be allowed.

"The past 30 days have marked the most serious steps forward in preventing a nuclear Iran. Beginning with the UN Security Council resolution, followed by the actions of the European Union, culminating today with the efforts of this Congress to craft the most comprehensive, results-oriented legislation, Iran will finally feel the burden of crippling economic sanctions.

"This legislation is the most important step Congress can take today to thwart the development of an Iranian nuclear power. Now we look to the Administration to hold those violators accountable and ensure the stringent implementation of these crippling sanctions. Now is the time to act to stop Iran's nuclear weapons program. I urge this body to act decisively today by passing this important piece of legislation."

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), the first Member on our side, as was mentioned earlier, to come up with a concept of sanctions on refined petroleum, the former head of the Iran Working Group.

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. I would like to thank my friend from California for his leadership and my friend from Florida for hers. This is what bipartisan leadership looks like.

Mr. Speaker, you know, the risk that we are working against today is not simply a missile striking innocent people halfway around the world. It would be a nuclear IED striking people around the corner.

Make no mistake about it. One of the risks that we confront is that a nuclear-weapon Iran that can make highly enriched uranium might well share that highly enriched uranium with a terrorist group, and the next SUV that is parked in Times Square might have a nuclear IED in it. Iran could very well be the source of such an attack. We must stop that, and this legislation today goes in that direction.

To those who say that the Iranians don't fear sanctions, then why did they try to strike this deal with Brazil and Turkey on the eve of the U.N. sanctions?

To people who say that energy sanctions won't work, then why have the Iranians tried to embark on a crash course to replace gasoline with natural gas?

This is the right move at the right time. I thank my chairman for authoring it, and I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 55 seconds to a member of our committee who has been a great supporter of this legislation, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. I wish I had time to praise the chairman. He has done just a remarkable job on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation. Iran's nuclear program represents as much of a threat to the United States, to Europe, and to the Arab world as it does to Israel. It is absolutely essential that we stop this terrorist-supporting and -financing, murderous, anti-Semitic, Holocaust-denying regime from reaching its ultimate goal. It seeks to destroy Israel and to dominate the entire Middle East—and to do that by acquiring nuclear weapons.

What this bill does today is it says: Not on our watch. We will not be intimidated. We will not be fooled. We will not allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons.

If Iran acquires nuclear weapons, it will unleash a dangerous and unprecedented arms race throughout the Middle East the likes of which the world has never seen. Introducing nuclear weapons in the Middle East can only add to the destabilization of an already unstable part of the world. What a frightening thought.

I urge support for this bill.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 35 seconds.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues who played a pivotal role.

Particularly, I would like to thank my conference co-chair, Senator CHRIS DODD, and his staff Colin McGinnis and Neal Orringer; my ranking member, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN; both Mr. HOYER and Mr. CANTOR; all of the conferees; the staff director for the minority, Yleem Poblete—she drives a hard bargain—and the wonderful staff on our side, led by Rick Kessler, and particularly the efforts of Shanna Winters, Alan Makovsky, Daniel Silverberg, David Fite, Janice Kaguyutan, Ed Rice, and Robert Marcus.

With that, I urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I provide the following Joint Statement by myself and my co-chair Senator DODD:

The Chairs recognize the importance of the new authority provided to the President to waive sanctions on certain persons from countries closely cooperating with U.S. and international efforts to constrain Iran's ability to develop a nuclear weapon. The Chairs encourage the Administration to use this new authority judiciously for those most deserving of allies and other truly cooperating nations. We trust this will be an important multilateral incentive in inducing compliance with the recently passed Security Council Resolution and with other regional and unilateral measures. The closely cooperating waiver draws upon the existing authority in Section 4(c) but extends the period of time available for the waiver to 12 months. The chairs do not view this authority to be a

wholly preemptive waiver. In fact, we expect a meaningful investigation, as warranted, into the conduct of the alleged violator to be conducted prior to exercising the waiver. While the joint explanatory statement accompanying the Act indicates that a determination on sanctionability must also be made prior to exercising the 4(c)(1)(B) waiver, there are differing and legitimate views on whether such a determination is required. While divergent from the views in the joint explanatory statement, we accept that this may be a fair reading of the obligations under Section 4(c)(1)(B). In the end, we encourage the Administration to use all of the tools at its disposal in this Act and under existing authorities to achieve the overriding goal of constraining Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions. But we will clearly need to monitor the implementation of this waiver.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act of 2010.

As a cosponsor of the Iran Sanctions Act, I congratulate the conferees for building on the best features of that bill, and the Senate version, to produce bipartisan legislation that moves beyond our initial focus on restricting refined oil supplies and creates sweeping and strong new sanctions on banks doing business with Iran.

If Iran continues with its illegal nuclear enrichment activities, it will threaten the stability of the Middle East, threaten the security of its neighbors, including Israel, and jeopardize the international counter-proliferation regime. This bill directs the President to take additional measures to stop those efforts.

The measure codifies longstanding executive orders that limit the goods exempted under the American trade embargo against Iran and includes new provisions that hold U.S. and foreign banks accountable for their actions and for the actions of their subsidiaries.

Some highlights of the bill include provisions that impose sanctions on foreign insurance, financing and shipping companies that sell energy related goods and services to Iran; new prohibitions on American banks doing business with any foreign bank that facilitates Iran's illicit nuclear program; three new sanctions that prohibit Iranian access to foreign exchange in the U.S.; new prohibitions on access to the U.S. banking system; and a prohibition on property transactions in the U.S. The bill even touches on the U.S. government procurement sector by requiring a certification from a company bidding on a U.S. government contract that it is not engaged in sanctionable conduct.

These new sanctions compliment efforts by the European Union, the United Nations and the Obama Administration, to create a web of restrictions designed to cut Iran off from the international financial community if it does not abandon its illicit enrichment activities. The European Union passed a sanctions package that places restrictions on Iran's trade, banking and insurance sectors in addition to instituting new prohibitions on key sectors of Iran's gas and oil industry. The United Nations Security Council passed its fourth round of sanctions against military purchases, trade and financial transactions carried out by the Revolutionary Guard, which controls the nuclear program and has taken a more central role in running the country and the economy.

The Obama Administration recently placed dozens of Iranian companies and senior Ira-

nian officials on a U.S. financial industry blacklist, appointed as a special adviser on non-proliferation and arms control Robert Einhorn, a man the Chinese government calls "the dentist" for the way he extracts painful concessions during negotiations, and the administration is working with the Israeli government to ensure that Iranians who are key to Iran's nuclear program and who may want to leave Iran, are able to do so.

Iran's refusal to heed repeated warnings about its illegal enrichment activities must be met with resolve. All options must remain on the table. When combined with the efforts of the Obama Administration and our allies, this bill helps ensure that the president has at his disposal a full range of tools to deal with Iran. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in acknowledging the real and serious threat posed by a nuclear Iran to the United States, our allies in the Middle East, and the global nuclear nonproliferation regime that is vital to securing a safer and more prosperous world.

I would also like to acknowledge the Obama Administration, which has rightly pursued and kept open a dual-track approach of concerted diplomatic engagement and pressure with Iran.

The President's resolve proved successful in securing a coordinated and forceful international response, and I am pleased to see that this Conference agreement provides the Administration improved flexibility to ensure we do not undermine the very international partnerships that are necessary to prevent Iran from pursuing a nuclear weapons capability.

As this package of unilateral U.S. sanctions moves forward for the President's signature, let us not lose sight of our ultimate goal—a long-term diplomatic solution to bring Iran into compliance with international nonproliferation standards and commitments.

Mr. Speaker, although I support this Conference agreement, I must reiterate my deeply held belief that sanctions should never be viewed as a checkmark on the path to war.

I remain deeply concerned by counter-productive rhetoric with regard to Iran that echoes the drumbeat to war we heard in Iraq.

The prospect of a military strike in Iran carries devastating and unacceptable consequences for United States foreign policy and security interests in the region that cannot be ignored.

Further, I believe our words and resources are better served in support of the Iranian people, their resilient civil society and determination to seek the protection of basic human rights and meaningful democratic reform despite the intransigence of the ruling regime.

We must closely scrutinize the implementation of these sanctions, which I believe could be better targeted, in order to avoid punishing the Iranian people at the expense of moderate voices and to the benefit of hardliner elements within Iran.

With that in mind, I urge my colleagues to invest as much energy in support of a coordinated and cooperative diplomatic process in Iran as they have in finalizing these punitive measures aimed at bringing them to the table.

It is this course of action that will be necessary to erase once and for all our fears of

a nuclear-armed Iran and the destabilizing impact this might have in an already volatile region.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, as a passionate advocate throughout my career for the cause of nuclear non-proliferation, I hope we can also take this opportunity to recognize and act upon our own commitments as a nuclear power to take meaningful steps toward nuclear disarmament and the realization of world free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act. The United States does not deny Iran's lawful right to peacefully explore technologies for nuclear power, but the Iranian regime has provided just cause for skepticism about the peaceful nature of its nuclear ambitions. There is an international consensus that Iran should not attain nuclear weapons capability—a circumstance that unquestionably would accelerate a nuclear arms race in the Middle East, threatening both regional stability and the security of the United States.

For over a year and a half, the United States and the international community have worked diligently to achieve a diplomatic resolution to the Iranian regime's reckless pursuit of nuclear weapons. Yet the Iranian leadership remains defiant and shows no signs of substantive cooperation. Their actions have left us little choice but to pursue additional measures to persuade the regime that it must live up to its obligations to the international community by suspending its uranium enrichment program and verifiably ending any pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Recently, the United Nations imposed new sanctions on the Government of Iran. The United States joined the European Union and others in taking immediate steps to implement these measures in a way that is consistent with existing law. Now Congress will provide the Administration with new tools that will allow the United States to augment these multilateral efforts.

This legislation will broaden the list of sanctionable activities and provide new mechanisms for the U.S. to sanction responsible entities. Any banks, companies, or other institutions that support Iran's refined petroleum sector or engage in transactions with Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) or other blacklisted Iranian institutions will face stiff penalties and be prevented from doing business in the United States. State and local governments will have clear authorization to divest from entities that engage in business with Iran, and private asset managers will be able to undertake similar divestment without fear of breaching their fiduciary responsibilities. The Director of National Intelligence will be required to prepare a list of governments that allow re-export, trans-shipment, transfer, re-transfer, or diversion to Iran of goods or services that could be used for terrorism or the production of weapons of mass destruction. The U.S. will work with these governments to strengthen their export control systems, and the President will be required to impose new restrictions on those that fail to improve their actions.

While I believe it is necessary for the U.S. to enact these tough new measures as quickly as possible, it is important to remember that by themselves, they will not be effective. Sanctions are blunt instruments. They rarely

change the behavior of intransigent regimes, but they often harm innocent citizens. I am pleased that this legislation was crafted carefully to target the IRGC and the leadership of Iran, rather than the Iranian people.

The United States continues to stand with those in Iran who oppose human rights abuses and fight for a government that is truly representative of the peoples' will. That is why this legislation explicitly exempts software and services for personal communication and internet access from the general prohibition against exports to Iran. In addition, Iranians who perpetrated or were complicit in human rights abuses against other Iranians on or after June 12, 2009 will be subject to strict new visa, property, and financial sanctions.

It is equally important to note that this legislation makes clear that the United States stands ready to lift the new sanctions and engage Iran in a productive dialogue if the regime stops threatening its neighbors and verifiably abandons its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. Until that day comes, the United States will continue to take action to convince the Iranian leadership that this is the only viable choice. Achieving that goal is the central purpose of this legislation.

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt Iran is working right now to acquire nuclear weapons. We must stop them.

The underlying bill if passed and strongly enforced by our President would impose smart crippling sanctions on Iran's nuclear program and would make it drastically more difficult for Iran to continue its illegal nuclear dealings.

Make no mistake Iran's development of nuclear weapons threatens not only our friend Israel and the Middle East it threatens the entire world.

I urge my colleagues to support the underlying bill to impose sanctions and to stand for the safety and security of freedom loving nations around the world.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for one minute.

I rise to support the passage of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act.

Since 1995, many U.S. regulations have been enacted to pressure Iran to restrict its nuclear fantasies. Previous to this Act none of those regulations had sufficient bite nor adherence.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, if allowed on its present course, could be in the possession of a nuclear weapon in less than a year. Severe restrictions must be imposed on foreign financial institutions who enable this regime to pursue its nuclear aspirations.

Nuclear terrorism is one of the greatest threats to American security. Keeping the bomb from Iran is absolutely critical to international peace and stability.

Iran has repeatedly snubbed their nose at International Atomic Energy inspectors. The government's serial deception in declaring their nuclear intentions has gone unchecked for too long. We cannot allow Iranian leaders to gain more time.

In addition to strengthening and expanding the trade embargo this comprehensive, results-oriented legislation provides for strict economic consequences to those who assist in Iran's human rights violations against its own people. It penalizes those who suppress freedom of religion and speech in Iran and the entities that aid them.

This legislation would be in effect until the day our President certifies to Congress that Iran is no longer a designated state-sponsor of terrorism, has ceased gross violations of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and given up its unrelenting pursuit of ballistic missile, biological and chemical weapon capability.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in unwavering support of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Iran Sanctions Act. This legislation makes clear to the Government of Iran that we will not tolerate their continued illicit pursuit of nuclear weapons or their support for terrorism. Supported by the ongoing multilateral efforts of the United Nations Security Council and the European Union, these tough sanctions are intended to put greater pressure on Iran to change their behavior.

President Obama will now have a range of new options to deal with the threats posed by Iran. Expanding upon previous sanctions, this legislation imposes a wide array of tough new economic, energy and financial sanctions. These sanctions target businesses involved in refined petroleum sales and those that support Iran's domestic refining efforts, as well as international banking institutions involved with the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, nuclear program or support terrorism.

Preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons is one of our paramount national security priorities. Nor can we allow their flagrant support of international terrorism continue unabated. Strong sanctions and enforcement of those sanctions make it clear that Iran must change its conduct now.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 2194, a powerful package of sanctions against Iran. These new measures increase pressure on Iran to do the right thing and put an end to its sponsorship of terrorism and its efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. I am pleased that the United States has worked with the United Nations to secure multilateral sanctions, but the United States should also be increasing pressure on Iran by implementing the sensible, targeted sanctions contained in this bill.

This conference report contains a package of sanctions that ups the ante on Iran's trading partners, making it clear that doing business with Iran has a price. It targets Iran's energy and banking sectors, and imposes sanctions on foreign companies that are supplying energy and know-how to Iran. It allows the government to restrict access to America for the purposes of banking, foreign exchange and property investment. It requires companies seeking procurement contracts to certify that they are not engaging in sanctionable conduct. The executive branch will have to report sanctionable activity and must either implement sanctions or waive them. Our sanctions will no longer be tough on paper and weak in implementation. Iran can secure an end to them at any time by ending its sponsorship of terrorism and by ending its quest to develop or acquire nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons and ballistic missiles and ballistic-missile launch technology.

Iran has shown, time and time again, that it is determined to acquire nuclear weapons. Earlier this week, Reuters reported that Iran has enriched 17 kilograms of uranium to 20 percent purity, and that this is a significant

step toward the 90 percent enrichment required for weapons-grade uranium. In April, Iran unveiled a third generation of centrifuges and has indicated that the testing phase is nearly complete and that its scientists are working on a fourth generation. It is clear that Iran is racing toward its goal of becoming a nuclear nation.

Iran has also been one of the chief state sponsors of terrorism, sending funding, weapons and know-how to terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah. These organizations specifically target civilian populations and have no compunctions against lobbing missiles at homes, schools, hospitals and nursing homes. There are reports that Iran has backed militants in Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Iran's leaders have also targeted their own people, viciously putting down the fledgling democratic movement last year and working to restrict communication among its own people. I am pleased that these sanctions specifically ban procurement contracts to any foreign company that exports to Iran technology used to restrict the free flow of information or to disrupt, monitor, or otherwise restrict freedom of speech. We must do everything we can to persuade Iran to change its reckless course.

A nuclear Iran will be dangerous for the entire world. Iran has been most outspoken in its threats against Israel, but Israel is not the only Middle Eastern nation with reason to fear a nuclear Iran. There is longstanding tension between Shi'ite Iran and its Sunni neighbors. Some argue—because Iran's President has threatened to wipe Israel off the map and Iran has provided weapons and resources to terrorist organizations that are actively trying to accomplish that aim—that America is acting solely to help Israel. And indeed, when Iran threatens to annihilate Israel, I think we should take it at its word, and should assume that it intends to use its nuclear weapons to turn its threat into a reality. But, these sanctions are also necessary because a nuclear Iran threatens all of its neighbors and it has been exporting terrorism to a wide range of nations around the globe.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the conference report for H.R. 2194, and in voting to increase pressure on Iran to turn from this dangerous path. These sanctions are a reasonable and necessary augmentation of existing restrictions and an additional means to put pressure on a state that seems intent on exporting terror and death throughout the world.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the conference report on H.R. 2194, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010. Despite the inclusion of provisions in this legislation that would improve internet access and target violators of human rights, the bill will inflict severe economic hardship on the Iranian people and have no impact on the Iranian government. I oppose nuclear proliferation for military purposes for all countries and believe that sanctions have proven to be a failed policy.

The stated purpose of this legislation is to persuade the Iranian government to halt their nuclear program. Broad sanctions can only serve to further isolate Iran from the international community and cause them to be increasingly secretive. The sanctions play directly into the hands of the Iranian government

and directly undermine the efforts of the Iranian people who have courageously challenged their government—often at the cost of their lives.

The United States was unable to come to a resolution with Iran over its nuclear program, partly due to the fact that during negotiations, Iran was threatened with sanctions regardless of negotiations. At the core of the failure of negotiations was mistrust. Turkey and Brazil accomplished something the United States was unable to do in their diplomatic negotiations with Iran over a nuclear fuel swap—broker a deal based on trust. Unfortunately, the Administration missed the opportunity to capitalize on this significant breakthrough in negotiations.

It is my hope that it will not take the impending suffering of the Iranian people at the hands of U.S.-imposed sanctions to wake us up to the need to significantly change our diplomatic engagement with Iran.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2194, the Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act.

Under its current leadership, Iran is a threat—to the United States, to its neighbors, and to global stability. Stopping the Iranian regime from acquiring nuclear weapons is a top priority of this Administration and Congress.

Building on the momentum of the recent adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1929, this bill will impose punitive sanctions to immediately squeeze the Iranian regime in an effort to force change in their reckless behavior.

With the passage of H.R. 2194, we send a clear message backed by tough sanctions: investing in Iran's energy sector, conducting business with Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, or facilitating investments that support Iran's illicit nuclear program have severe consequences.

Penalties and travel restrictions on Iran's human rights abusers and new sanctions in the banking and financial sector will further isolate the Iranian government, increasing the cost to Iran's leaders for their nuclear ambitions.

I thank the gentleman from California for his efforts, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this bill.

Mr. NADLER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report on H.R. 2194, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010.

There is perhaps no greater threat to the peace and security of the world today than Iran. It supports terrorism and funds terrorist groups. And, it is bent on increasing its power and influence in the strategically important region of the Middle East.

In particular, Iran presents an existential threat to Israel, one of our closest allies. Its leader, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is a holocaust denier who has threatened to wipe Israel off of the map.

As such, the consequences of Iran developing or otherwise obtaining nuclear weapons would be dire. It instantly would further destabilize the Middle East and potentially lead to a nuclear arms race there.

Moreover, unlike with other countries where nuclear deterrence has worked, it may not with Iran. Its leaders have proven themselves to hold views that are extreme, irrational, and fundamentalist, and who knows for what crazy

reasons they would hold the world hostage and risk their own annihilation. These leaders also could share nuclear materials or weapons with terrorists bent on killing innocent people here and around the world, like Al Qaeda. We cannot let Iran have that power.

This threat from Iran has been building for years, but, unfortunately, during the previous Administration, very little was done about it. While the rhetoric of former President George W. Bush was tough on Iran, the reality was much different. For 8 years, they dithered while Iran built its nuclear capacity.

President Obama recognized the danger from Iran and immediately adopted a sensible policy of big sticks and big carrots. We began by engaging with the Iranian regime, a necessary part of any sensible strategy. Not only are discussions a worthy first step, they are necessary if for no other reason than to explain to your adversary the severe consequences of their continuing to be a threat to peace. We also need to start with negotiations to show that we tried and thus lay the foundation for strong efforts down the road, should they be needed. Unfortunately, Iran rejected these diplomatic overtures and continues to loudly defy the international community.

Therefore, we must ratchet up our economic pressure. That is exactly what we are doing. Thanks to the leadership of President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the United States was able to convince other nations to adopt new sanctions on Iran. These sanctions, adopted by the United Nations Security Council, will further isolate Iran from the world economy and, as they are multilateral, represent the optimum mechanism for economic pressure.

Of course, we also can bring the economic might of the United States to bear, and that is what we are doing today with H.R. 2194. This conference report contains a vast array of provisions which will put a significant squeeze on Iran. For example, it imposes sanctions on companies that sell refined petroleum products to Iran, targeting a key weakness of the Iranian regime. It punishes foreign banks that support Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, cutting off its funding. It authorizes state and local governments to divest investments from firms supporting Iran's energy sector and better enables other investment managers from similarly divesting funds.

Implementing these and the other sanctions in the conference report on H.R. 2194 is a critical next step in stopping Iran from becoming a nuclear power. While military options always remain on the table, we do not want to reach a situation where the choice is between having to engage militarily and allowing Iran to have nuclear weapons. Either of those two options is racked with problems, and so we must do all we can to see that it does not come to that.

I want to thank Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman HOWARD BERMAN and all other Members who worked so hard on putting this legislation together. Like Chairman BERMAN and others in Congress, I have endeavored to make sure that the threat from Iran is recognized and dealt with. Those of us who care deeply about this issue know that for the safety of Israel, the United States, and the entire world, we must act and we must act now.

I encourage all Members to support this conference report.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for the bill and I offer my con-

gratulations to the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and to all my fellow conferees on what is a remarkable piece of legislation.

This bill has teeth, real teeth, great big nasty sharp teeth that are finally going to force businesses and banks around the world to choose between access to the American economy and financial system, or business as usual with Iran's theocratic dictatorship.

This bill has real sanctions; not maybe sanctions, not sort-a sanctions, real sanctions. This bill has real sanctions investigation requirements; not maybe we'll look into it, not we'll try to get to it when we can, but a clear legal requirement to investigate potential violations. This bill creates legal safe harbor for the potential divestment of billions of dollars of equity from companies that continue to do business in Iran, the world-capital of state-sponsored terrorism. This bill has real sanctions on Iran's energy sector and all the things that keep it alive and allow it to operate. This bill will force new requirements on U.S. banks to keep Iran's blood-tainted money from being laundered by the international financial system.

This bill imposes sanctions on those in Iran responsible for human rights violations and those companies that facilitate Iranian state repression. America will not merely bear witness to the brave struggle of the people of Iran to be free; we choose to stand with the Iranian people against the jackboot of the ayatollah's tyranny.

This bill will force action to close loopholes abroad that have allowed Iran to import, smuggle and altogether befuddle international efforts to keep dangerous technologies out of their malicious hands. With this bill there will be no more blind eyes for allies; no more sleeping at the export control switch.

In short, this is a bill that forces the question: will the world watch passively as Iran crosses the nuclear arms threshold, or will we join together to squeeze, wrangle, coerce, and compel Iran to pull back from the nuclear brink?

Iran's nuclear program is the greatest threat to peace and security in the Middle East and throughout the world. We know it. Our allies in Europe know it. Russia and China know it. All the Arab states know it. Successful nuclear proliferation by Iran would likely mean the collapse of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the onset of a mad rush for nuclear arms in the Middle East and a vastly increased possibility of the unimaginable horror of nuclear arms being used.

This bill is also a triumph for the Leadership of this Congress and for the Obama Administration. For the entirety of their eight years, the previous Administration talked tough while the Iranian nuclear program went from crawling to walking; from walking to running; and from running to sprinting towards a nuclear bomb. The rhetoric was always very fierce, the results were always very flaccid. The previous Republican-controlled Congresses, though no less aware of the looming danger following the revelation of Iran's uranium enrichment program in 2002, also said all the right things, but somehow—somehow—never got around to passing this bill or one like it.

Look at who's in charge today. Look at who is going to get this bill done with broad bipartisan support. Look at who just put Iran's energy sector under the gun. Look at who just

closed the investigations loophole and the diversion loophole. Look at who just imposed unprecedented energy, banking, and finance sector sanctions. Look at who just imposed human rights sanctions on Iran's regime of thugs.

Look also at who just got Russia and China to join with the international community in passing the toughest ever UN Security Council sanctions on Iran; sanctions that authorize the inspection of Iranian ships; that impose major new restrictions on Iranian banking, finance, shipping, and arms transactions; and that designate the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps and key Iranian firms and figures associated with proliferation for additional penalties. Two years ago if someone had suggested the Security Council would have adopted these positions, they would have been taken away in a straitjacket. Today it's reality.

The cowboy rhetoric and the contempt for diplomacy are gone. But the results, which are what actually matters, are compelling. Just as we in Congress have come together to pass this historic legislation, the Obama Administration has rallied the world to stand against Iran's nuclear ambitions. Results matter.

We can not guarantee the success of these measures. Ultimately, the choice lies with the regime in Tehran to decide what price they're prepared to pay to sustain their illicit nuclear activities. But it should be clear that we are doing all that we can to impose on Iran the highest possible costs for its defiance and that we are demonstrating, by our actions and by our efforts, the depth of our commitment to peacefully ending Iran's illegal nuclear activities.

We are trying diplomacy. We are trying unilateral sanctions. We are trying multilateral sanctions. We are trying our utmost to avoid making conflict inevitable. But there should be no question about the absolute determination of the United States to prevent Iran from acquiring the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

Iran can not and must not be allowed to cross the threshold of nuclear arms. They can stop their program, or it can be stopped by others. And it would be far, far better if they stopped their nuclear program themselves. The United States and the other P5+1 nations have all made clear the benefits Iran would gain if it made this choice. The United Nations and the Congress today are showing Iran the rising costs and growing isolation it will endure if its behavior doesn't change.

Iran's illicit nuclear activities and programs must stop. Above all other considerations, above all other costs, without any doubt or uncertainty, Iran's nuclear arms program must be stopped. It must be stopped.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this conference agreement.

I am deeply concerned that Iran continues to pursue nuclear capabilities in defiance of the international community. Such actions pose a profound threat to our national security interests.

I have repeatedly supported efforts to give U.S. Presidents the tools and capabilities needed to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and engaging in terrorism, and I continue to do so today through this conference agreement.

In pursuing the critical goal of preventing Iran's nuclear proliferation, I am pleased that the conference agreement expands the sanc-

tions available to the President to include refined petroleum resources. In addition, the severe financial restrictions imposed under this agreement will prevent banks from doing business with blacklisted Iranian entities.

However, while domestic sanctions are critical, it is also important that our allies participate in an international coalition so that combating Iran's nuclear proliferation is a powerful multilateral effort. This conference agreement encourages this vital endeavor.

The original House bill, like other Iran sanctions bills that have preceded it in this chamber, was referred to the Ways & Means Committee. I am pleased that as a conferee, I have been able to work with my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee to address the issues in our jurisdiction in a way that maintains the strength of the bill. This has been a bipartisan and productive effort resulting in a robust agreement that takes powerful action against Iran, gives the Administration the best chance at continuing to cultivate and maintain international multilateral pressure, and is consistent with our trade obligations.

I thank Chairman LEVIN for his valuable efforts, as well as Chairman BERMAN and Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN, in achieving this exemplary outcome and urge my colleagues to support this conference agreement.

Mr. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation because nuclear weapons in the hands of the Iranian regime is simply unacceptable.

Iran is a state sponsor of terror.

Iranian leaders have continually denied the Holocaust while expressing the desire to commit a second Holocaust through the destruction of Israel, our most important ally in the Middle East.

To that we must say "Never Again."

The chant of "Death to America" is seemingly the official slogan of this Iranian regime.

Those who would seek to profit by helping the Iranian regime to develop nuclear weapons or to suppress the people of Iran will no longer be able to do business with the United States or have access to our nation's financial system.

These sanctions are real and they have teeth.

We must send a clear and decisive message to the Iran and the world community that America is serious in our effort to deny Iran nuclear weapons.

To accomplish that we must pass these sanctions.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I support targeted sanctions against the government of Iran in an effort to stop the Iranian regime's pursuit of nuclear weapons. For this reason, I voted in favor of the Conference Report on the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act on the floor of the House today. The effectiveness of this legislation will now depend on whether the sanctions are forcefully implemented by the Obama Administration. I urge the President to work closely with our allies and use all the tools provided by the Act to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear capability.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report on H.R. 2194, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act.

I would like to thank Chairman BERMAN for introducing this legislation, of which I am a co-sponsor, and for his tireless work in support of halting Iranian aggression.

Iran's nuclear ambitions not only pose a critical threat to the security of our close ally, Israel, but they also threaten the stability of the entire Middle East region and the world. As we saw clearly last summer, the Iranian regime suppresses democracy and violates human rights at home, and they continue to sponsor terrorist organizations abroad. The bottom line is this: Iran must not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons.

This legislation builds on recent multilateral sanctions negotiated by President Obama. After strong leadership by the Obama Administration, the U.N. Security Council recently passed internationally-binding sanctions against Iran's banking, finance, shipping, and energy sectors, as well as against Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The bill we are considering today will augment and strengthen those ongoing multilateral efforts.

This bill expands the current U.S. sanctions regime to target entities involved in selling refined petroleum to Iran or in aiding Iran's domestic refining efforts, as well financial institutions doing business with blacklisted Iranian entities. It provides a legal framework under which state and local governments can divest their portfolios of foreign companies involved in Iran's energy sector.

Mr. Speaker, time is not on our side, and Iran continues to progress toward nuclear weapons capabilities. This legislation contains the most comprehensive package of Iran sanctions ever considered by Congress, and it will give us a full range of economic tools to immediately apply strong pressure on the Iranian regime to abandon the pursuit of nuclear weapons.

This legislation sends a clear message to Tehran that the regime's nuclear program, human rights record, and support for terrorists are unacceptable. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

Mr. BERMAN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the conference report on the bill, H.R. 2194.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 3962, by the yeas and nays;

Motion to suspend the rules on the conference report on H.R. 2194, by the yeas and nays.