Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor

of the Syrian Accountability

Act, I am proud to rise in strong support

of this legislation. It is a remedy

for the absence of a consistent, clear,

and strong policy towards Syria today.

And while we pass this bill today, we

are sending a strong signal by passing

this bill that Syria will be treated like

other state sponsors of terrorist organizations.

Today, over in Iraq the Iraqi council,

with the American administration support,

buys electricity in a swap deal for

energy and oil, inconsistent with both

the principles and the values embedded

in this policy. On the northern border

of Iraq, we have opened up in dialogue

with Syria a free trade zone, again inconsistent

especially with the policy of

this act and the values and the principles

embedded here.

It is my hope here we not only send

a signal to Syria when it comes to

being a state sponsor of terrorism but

to the administration that we must

have a consistent policy, not one that

says as a state sponsor of terrorism

that you have penalties but on the

other side we will continue to do trade

as it relates to electricity, continue to

do trade as it relates to opening up a

trade zone between Iraq and Syria. If

we want to buy electricity, there are

sources like Turkey, Jordan, countries

that are partners with America.

So it is my hope that we support this

bill which is a good first step to sending

a signal to Syria that its days of

sponsoring terrorism are coming to an

end and that the administration should

announce a policy that sends a strong,

consistent, unambiguous signal we will

not do business with states that sponsor

terrorism.

Once again, I want to associate myself

with my colleagues who have

worked so hard on this and for their

great work. Again, it crosses both parties

because it represents the values of

all of those in the House and other

democratic nations in the fight against

terrorism.