Mr. Speaker, Iran’s nuclear

program has been an issue of serious concern

for the international community since the Islamic

Revolution of 1979.

Since that time, Iran has been steadily advancing

towards the nuclear threshold necessary

to develop nuclear weaponry.

Ahmadinejad already has 8,000 centrifuges

that have produced enough uranium to build

two nuclear weapons and the International

Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, has evidence of

an Iranian uranium enrichment program coupled

with explosives testing and development

of devices to fire nuclear weapons.

Furthermore, every day Iran’s nuclear stockpile

grows by 41⁄2 pounds.

It would be an absolute disaster for the

United States and its allies if Iran enriched

uranium even further.

Israel, in particular, sees the face of Iran’s

blind aggression every day.

Iran has not only threatened the very existence

of the one true democracy in the Middle

East, but encourages other hostile governments

to do the same through a complex network

of nuclear and arms cooperation.

Given these facts and undoubtedly an immeasurable

amount of undisclosed information,

the United States finds itself at a crossroads.

Negotiations with the Iranians will conclude

in Vienna on October 19.

But, recent revelations of a previously undisclosed

nuclear facility, not to mention the increasingly

atrocious treatment of opposition

supporters, have illustrated that unfortunately,

Iran has already failed the test and it is time

for Plan B.

For this reason, I commend the House on

the passage of the Iran Sanctions Act, H.R.

1327, a bill which I am a proud cosponsor of.

The future of nuclear nonproliferation, international

security and the well-being of young

Iranians lies in the administration’s ability to

steer Iran away from it dangerous ambitions.

Fortunately, H.R. 1327 opens the door to

this diversion by uniquely complementing the

administration’s forward-thinking strategy of

dialogue with strict credit sanctions.

Sans sanctions, engagement can be and

historically has been manipulated by Iran as a

mere tactic for delay.

Without the foreign capital investments to

modernize its petroleum infrastructure,

Ahmadinejad will soon have no choice but to

change course.

I would like to conclude by noting that Iran’s

deficient refining capacity calls for targeted

sanctions on refined petroleum and increased

international cooperation to enforce these

measures with our partners in the EU, Russia

and China.

The threat from Iran demands an effective

policy response—and our European allies are

well-placed to formulate one.

Germany, for example, has already taken

notable steps to reduce its business with Iran.

But despite a 90 percent decline between

2006 and 2008 in the German Government’s

issuance of export credit guarantees to Iran,

exports to Iran have increased.

These sorts of disturbing trends coupled

with Iran’s thriving black market, underpin the

premise that more must be done to curtail foreign

investment and ultimately, Iran’s nuclear

weapons pursuit.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with

both my colleagues in the House and the Foreign

Affairs Committee to increase the administration’s

options when dealing with Iran.

Once again, the passage of the Iran Sanctions

Act is a momentous step towards not

only effectively dealing with Iran, but towards

replacing a troubling network of nuclear cooperation

with a newfound movement towards

international cooperation for the sake of world

peace.