Mr. Speaker, I also rise today in strong support for H.R.

1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act

of 2009. The author of this legislation,

Chairman FRANK, deserves a great deal

of credit for helping shepherd this legislation

through committee in a very

strong bipartisan basis and for his tenacious

work in bringing it to the

House floor today in a bipartisan manner.

I also want to commend my colleague

from Illinois, who I know could

not be here today, Mr. KIRK, who also

has been a champion of this legislation

in the past.

Mr. Speaker, with the recent disclosure

of a second site for enriching uranium

in Iran, our relations with that

country continue to be at the forefront

of U.S. foreign policy. The Iranian regime

has made no secret of its ambitions

to acquire nuclear technology

while it continues to engage in human

rights violations and suppressing dissent.

The U.S. can and should demand that

Iran take specific actions, concrete actions,

in the near term. This legislation

today is going to help in that effort.

The Iranian government will be

more responsive if the United States

can isolate the regime and apply some

distinct pressure that will help force

Tehran to deliver on its commitments

and not merely to do what it has done

in the past, and that is use negotiations

to merely run out the clock.

This legislation increases the economic

pressure that is placed on Iran

by permitting State governments, local

governments and educational institutions

to divest from investments related

to Iran’s energy sector.

In addition, the legislation would extend

to private actors the ability to

consider U.S.-Iran relationships in

their investment calculus. This means

that registered investment advisors are

provided a safe harbor, allowing them

to divest from or elect not to invest in

securities of companies that invest in

Iran’s energy sector.

Many States, as the chairman had

noted, including my own State of Minnesota,

have already moved in that direction.

But today we have the opportunity

to push this important initiative

a step closer at the Federal level,

and in doing so we can help leverage

and we can help slow down Iran’s nuclear

program and move one step closer

to helping diminish this major security

threat to the Middle East and the rest

of the world.

With the recent revelation of the second

enrichment site, passage of this

legislation is imperative, and it is even

more important than it has been in the past.

So I would urge immediate passage of

H.R. 1327, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing

for this side, I yield myself as much

time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of last

month, Iran finally got around to notifying

the United Nations International

Atomic Energy Agency of a previously

undisclosed nuclear enrichment facility

located on a military base. This additional

enrichment facility will allow

Iran to make more enriched uranium

and make it faster.

Now, what this means is that previous

estimates on when Iran could potentially

achieve a nuclear weapons

breakout are now inaccurate and unreliable.

What is especially disconcerting

to many of us in Congress is that this

is supposed to be a civilian facility but

it’s located on a military base. This

raises quite a few red flags, and we

must make sure and not allow the Iranian

regime to buy even more time.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this is another

violation of Iran’s obligation under the

Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty,

which requires all members to declare

all nuclear facilities and allow inspection.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time we begin

to act on the threat of a nuclear Iran

by demanding action, and the Iran

Sanctions Enabling Act is one more

tool in the toolbox, an important step

in moving that direction forward. I ask

for its passage, and I commend the

leadership again of the chairman for

moving this bill in a bipartisan manner forward.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.