Mr. Speaker, earlier this

month, Iran admitted the existence of a secret

enrichment facility in the holy city of Qom.

This development has set in motion a renewed

commitment on the part of the international

community to pursue more aggressive

penalties against Iran for its nuclear enrichment

activities. Today, as Secretary of State

Hilary Clinton arrives in Moscow to solicit Russian

support for more stringent sanctions

against Iran, the U.S. House of Representatives

considers legislation that will enable ordinary

Americans to express their opposition to

Iran’s illegal nuclear activities.

The Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009

helps to weaken Iran’s vital petroleum industry

by cutting off its access to global investment.

The legislation enables State and local governments

to divest from entities that invest

more than $20 million in Iran’s energy sector.

Though Iran possesses large oil reserves, it

has little refining capacity and the lack of refined

petroleum products has often been a

source of tension between its government and

its people.

It is clear that arresting Iran’s illegal nuclear

enrichment program will require a comprehensive

approach that targets Iran’s important energy

sector, truncates its access to the global

financial system and engages its people. This

legislation can help to achieve these goals. I

encourage my colleagues to join me in support

of this bill.