I thank the gentleman in support of the resolution.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in support

of H.R. 1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling

Act of 2009, which aims to put a

stop to Iran’s pursuit of nuclear weapons.

It cannot be overstated. A nuclear

armed Iran is an urgent and deadly

threat to peace and stability in the

Middle East and at home.

The anti-Western rhetoric of Iranian

President Ahmadinejad has only intensified

in recent years. His regime supports

terrorism in all its forms, a travesty

worsened by the fact that Iran

continues to pursue nuclear weapons

against the will of the international

community. If Iran continues its plans

for nuclear buildup, we can expect that

nuclear proliferation will increase

throughout the region and around the

globe. That is why it is critical for

Congress to pass the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act.

This legislation would authorize

State and local governments to divest

from companies investing in Iran’s petroleum

and natural gas sector. With

Tehran importing nearly 40 percent of

its gas and diesel needs, this legislation

would have a dramatic effect on Iran’s

economy and is an important step forward

in convincing Iran to suspend its

nuclear program. It strikes a careful

balance between the administration’s

diplomatic outreach and the need for

us to make sure that we can tighten

the noose around Iran’s neck in the

event that those diplomatic efforts are

not successful.