Thank you, Chairman

ROS-LEHTINEN, for yielding. I am

pleased to join you and join our friend

Mr. LANTOS in support of this bill.

I think that Iran has more potential

than any other country to destabilize

the world today. President Bush should

be given the tools necessary to work

toward a diplomatic solution in the crisis

that we now face with Iran and that

Iran, frankly, presents to the world.

I believe the solution to this problem

is in this legislation. I think this does

point us in a direction that can work.

The mandatory sanctions for any entity

that is assisting Iran to have the potential

for weapons of mass destruction

are important. They don’t have to be

targeted at a country, but those countries

who are helping make that happen

need to get the attention of this

Congress and this government.

This declares that we also intend as a

Congress to avoid implementing agreements

with countries that cooperate in

this area with Iran. This provides new

tools to the President to prevent

money laundering that can be used to

provide Iran and other dangerous countries

with weapons that endanger our

people.

Passage of this bill today sends a

powerful message to Iran and to those

who would support that country’s

weapons development, a program that

we need to be sure that we punish that

behavior.

I hope the President fully utilizes the

new authority provided to him in this

bill. I also urge not only that we approve

this bill, but that our allies and

our partners around the world work

along with us to implement similar

measures and convince Iran to peacefully

abandon its efforts to destabilize

the world. We encourage the President

in this bill to work with those groups

that have been mentioned that do support

openness and democracy in Iran.

I thank ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for her

great leadership in this effort and TOM

LANTOS for his leadership in this effort.