Mr. Speaker, I thank

my friend from Oregon for yielding me

this time and providing it to us in the

context of this debate.

This proposed legislation is contrary

to the best interest of Iran and the

United States. It is, unfortunately,

reminiscent of the State of the Union

address which declared Iran, Iraq, and

North Korea as part of the Axis of Evil;

and we are now very familiar with the

consequences of that statement. We

have seen a disastrous situation develop

in Iraq, and we have also seen the

revival of nuclear interest both in

North Korea and in Iran.

The attitude of our country toward

Iran now for more than 50 years has

been overly aggressive and overbearing,

and the consequences of it

have been very dangerous. We should

be acting in a much more mature and

responsible way, particularly toward

this country. This is a very significant

country, not only in the Middle East

but in the world generally. The people

of this country are good, sound, solid,

reasonable people, and we need to be

appealing to them on that basis, not on

the basis of the language of this resolution,

which continues to create this atmosphere

of hostility which is, as I

have indicated, has been going on now

for more than 50 years.

That needs to change. We need to

change our attitude, change our approach

to this nation. We need to engage

them more objectively, more seriously,

and in a much more filial way, a

much more friendlier way. And if we

were to do that, we would find that this

country would react and respond to us

in a similar fashion.

Unfortunately, this proposed legislation

does exactly the opposite. It

places us, continues to place us in a

difficult and dangerous, antagonistic

circumstance between ourselves and

this country, and unnecessarily so. So

this legislation is contrary to our interests,

just as it is contrary to the interests

of Iran, and so it should be rejected

by this body.