Madam Speaker, I once again rise in strong support of

H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability

Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of

this important legislation, and look forward to

it being signed into law.

The scope of the Darfur tragedy is nothing

less than horrific. As far as we know, an estimated

400,000 people are now dead and over

two million have been displaced as a result of

the violence. Thousands continue to die each

month as a result of starvation, neglect and

sickness. Unfortunately, little has changed

since the House first passed H.R. 3127 in

April: the Sudanese government has continued

to ignore United Nations Security Council

resolutions calling for the end of the conflict,

the May 2006 peace agreement has largely

been ignored and the violence against the

people of Darfur has raged on.

As United Nations Undersecretary General

for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland noted in

August, the situation has only gone ‘‘from real

bad to catastrophic.’’ It is therefore more important

than ever that the United States provide

the strong moral leadership necessary to

spur the world community to act to stop the

killings, kidnappings and rapes in Darfur. As

our nation continues to work within the United

Nations for strong international action on

Darfur, passage of this bill, and its enactment

into law, will send a clear message to the government

of Sudan that the United States will

not simply stand by as these atrocities continue.

Two years ago, this Congress and the administration

declared the atrocities in Darfur to

be genocide and vowed to end the ongoing

campaign of violence. It is in that spirit that we

must continue to work to ensure that these

strong words are not empty ones, that peace

can be found in Sudan, and that the people of

Darfur are one day free of the threat of genocide.

This bill, and the other Darfur measures

that we will pass today, are small but important

steps towards reaching these goals.