Mr. Speaker,

today I am offering my support for H.R. 3127,

the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. This

bill would be an important step in ending the

crisis that continues to plague the Darfur region

of Sudan.

Since civil unrest erupted in Sudan in February

2003, roughly 400,000 people have died

and an astounding 2.5 million have become

displaced as a result of policies by the government

of Sudan and attacks by government

troops and government-backed militias. The

human inhabitants of that beautiful land suffer

daily from unimaginable torments including

rape, hunger, looting, and indiscriminate killing.

The U.S. government has officially acknowledged

that what is happening in Darfur is

genocide. Now, it is imperative that the U.S.

and the global community act in defense of

those in Sudan who are suffering at the hands

of their government. If we do not do all that

we can to bring stability to this humanitarian

crisis, then we are essentially participating in

the problem.

H.R. 3127 aims to end this deplorable violence

through a variety of means including increasing

asset and travel sanctions, urging the

expansion and a stronger mandate for the African

Union Mission, AMIS, bringing perpetrators

of genocide, war crimes, or crimes

against humanity in Darfur to justice through

the International Criminal Court, and urging

the President to apply additional methods of

diplomatic pressure.

As a member of the Congressional Sudan

Caucus, I have had the opportunity to express

my commitment to developing a solution that

will put an end to this continuing genocide.

Furthermore, I intend to do what I can in my

capacity as a Member of Congress to demonstrate

this august body’s dedication to supporting

human rights around the world. I am

optimistic that, by working with advocates and

the international community, peace will return

to Sudan.

I support the Darfur Peace and Accountability

Act. I also urge my colleagues to vote

‘‘yes’’ on this important legislation.