Mr.

Speaker, last week, the North Korean

regime sent a clear message of defiance

to the world community. Rather than

work toward a peaceful agreement,

North Korea would prefer its people

starve in order to pursue its nuclear

ambitions. The failure of the longrange

missile test undermines the

credibility of the North’s new leadership

and requires the United States to

stand firm in support of stronger penalties.

North Korea has one ally in the region

that has the power to force them

to negotiate in good faith. It’s time

China stepped up and realized that its

economic success is dependent on peace

in the region and around the world.

With China’s rise comes responsibility.

I encourage China to use this opportunity

to force the North Korean regime

to abandon its nuclear missile

program and support the welfare of its

people; and I encourage the United

States to continue a strong posture,

peace through strength, in the hopes

that someday strength makes war obsolete.