Madam Speaker, we all

know there is a growing Iranian threat,

focused mostly on the people of Israel.

Earlier this year, JANE HARMAN

joined my bipartisan letter with 70

Members of Congress calling for the

U.S. to extend our full ballistic missile

defenses to protect Israel.

Last night, the United States announced

that we would make this key

commitment. Secretary Gates told Defense

Minister Barak that the first step

will happen soon. America’s most powerful

radar, the X-Band, will soon defend

Israel.

This is a historic step that sends a

powerful message to Iran: A future attack

on Israel will likely fail. Our two

democracies are sticking together to

ensure the safety of free peoples, even

in the Middle East.

Yesterday’s decision by America’s defenders

makes deterrence, diplomacy,

and peace a much more likely future

for the people of Israel.