Madam Speaker, Iran

is the full ticket—a defiant rogue state, defined

by the State Department as the world’s most

active—state sponsor of terrorism. Its ambition

to develop weapons of mass destruction capabilities

has been deliberate, deceptive, and

long in the making.

U.S. policy has to date pursued a patient

course of diplomacy including working with our

allies, heeding the findings of the International

Atomic Energy Agency, and accepting ineffectual

incentives.

However, diplomacy does not mean surrender

and of the ‘‘constructive engagement’’,

incentives, and inducements of the Iranian regime

have been no more effective than Neville

Chamberlain’s famous failed policies of appeasement

during World War II.

It is time for the U.S. and our allies to undertake

the sacrifices required to deny Iran the

political legitimacy, technology, materials, and

financial resources to pursue its destructive

policies—policies that threaten U.S and global

security.

It is our hope that H.R. 282 will serve as leverage

for cooperation from those allies who

claim to be concerned about the growing Iranian

threat but who continue to invest billions

in Iran’s energy sector and continue to assist

Iran’s nuclear and missile programs.

Ten years ago, the U.S. called on our European

allies to take steps to deny Iran the financial

resources to nuclear capabilities.

The U.S. also called on Russia and China

to cease their support for Iran’s nuclear and

missile program.

These calls were ignored.

Then, four years ago, the Iran saga within

the context of the IAEA begins.

According to multiple IAEA reports Iran’s deceptions

and breaches of its international obligations

have dealt with the most sensitive aspects

of the nuclear cycle.

By September of 2004, as Iran resumed

large-scale uranium conversion, then Secretary

of State Colin Powell called for the Iran

case to be referred to the United Nations Security

Council for sanctions to be imposed.

That was not to be. The response from the

international community was to offer Iran yet

more incentives and to increase its investments

in Iran’s energy sector.

Every step along the way, Iran has demonstrated

contempt for the IAEA and has

mocked the international community.

In fact, Iran’s former nuclear negotiator recently

boasted:

That is but a microcosm of how concessions

and inaction—inaction including the failure to

implement U.S. laws such as the Iran-Libya

Sanctions Act—have only served to embolden

the Iranian regime and increase the threat Iran

poses to U.S. national security interests and

global stability.

Just in the last few months, Iran: Resumed

its nuclear efforts, removing the IAEA seals on

uranium conversion plants; announced it could

successfully use biotechnology for its nuclear

program, thereby improving its capacity to

build nuclear weapons; called for Israel to be

wiped off the map; Iran’s Defense Minister

said that it is ‘‘Iran’s absolute right to have access

to nuclear arms . . .’’; Iran is identified

by U.S. military commanders as the source of

some of the IEDs being used in terrorist attacks

in Iraq; Iran’s leader announces that Iran

would inflict ‘‘harm and pain’’ on the U.S.

Just over a week ago, Iran’s so-called president

announces that Iran has an indigenous

capability to enrich uranium and that it continues

to pursue a more sophisticated technology,

P–2 centrifuges, that could speed

Iran’s path to nuclear weapons.

Just yesterday, Iran’s Grand Ayatollah underscored

that Iran would share nuclear technology

with other Islamic nations.

This announcement was made during a

meeting with Sudan’s brutal leader where the

Ayatollah praised the Sudanese regime’s policies.

This clearly indicates that the Iranian threat

is more than just about its nuclear pursuits.

This is a repressive regime that denies the Iranian

people the most fundamental freedoms.

It is a regime that, since the infamous day

in November 1979 when the U.S. embassy

was overrun by Iranian radicals and Americans

were taken hostage and held for 444

days, has increasingly viewed terrorism as a

legitimate means to further its ideological and

strategic aims.

Iran provides Hezbollah with funding, safe

haven, training, and weapons that have been

estimated by some at more than $80 million

per year.

Hezbollah has been linked to the 1983 attacks

on the U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon.

Hezbollah has also been linked to the

bombing of the U.S. Embassy and the Embassy

annex, in Beirut in 1984.

Iran is directly linked to the June 1996 truck

bombing of the Khobar Towers U.S. military

housing complex in Saudi Arabia.

Iran has used Hezbollah to assert a global

reach that has extended into the Western

Hemisphere. We witnessed the 1992 bombing

of the Israeli embassy in Argentina and the

July 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community

Center, also in Buenos Aires.

In December 2001, Matthew Levitt, a former

FBI counter-terrorism official, detailed the beginning

of al-Qaeda’s links with Iran.

Testimony from defendants in the Kenya

and Tanzania U.S. embassy bombings, indicate

that Al-Qaeda and Hezbollah, with Iranian

assistance, have had strategic meetings

throughout the years in Sudan and elsewhere.

This is just the tip of the iceberg.

There is still time to contain the threat

posed by Iran and adopt short and long-term

policies that will compel Iran to change its unacceptable

behavior.

H.R. 282 provides such a response.

Briefly, this bill: Codifies U.S. sanctions on

Iran and requires that they remain in place

until Iran has verifiably dismantled its chemical,

biological, and nuclear weapons programs;

amends the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act,

ILSA, including by enlarging the number of entities

that would be subject to sanctions, limiting

its application to Iran, and eliminating the

expiration date of the law; requires that the

names of all individuals, governments and

companies that have invested a total of at

least $20 million in Iran’s energy sector be

published in the Federal Register; denies U.S.

assistance to countries that are invested in

Iran’s energy sector; authorizes the President

to provide U.S. assistance to peaceful prodemocracy

and human rights groups in Iran

and for independent broadcasts into Iran.

We must use all available political and economic

means to truly make Iran pay for its behavior,

and to leverage for cooperation from

our allies and convince them to deny Iran the

resources to continue along this track.

We must act before it is too late and our options

are severely limited.

I ask my colleagues to render their overwhelming

support to this legislation.