I thank our esteemed

chairman of the House Foreign

Affairs Committee, as well as our ranking

member, my good friend, Mr.

ENGEL of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support

of this resolution, authored by Mr.

ROYCE and Mr. ENGEL, condemning

North Korea for its most recent nuclear

test.

Kim Jong Un, like his father and his

grandfather before him, continues to

thumb his nose at the United States, at

South Korea, and Japan—indeed, the

international community as a whole—

by flagrantly violating U.N. Security

Council resolutions. Pyongyang continues

to pursue its goals of nuclear armament

while leaving its citizens malnourished,

starving, and suffering from

diseases.

Without an appropriate response,

North Korea will continue to launch

rockets, as it did this past December,

will continue to conduct nuclear tests,

and will continue to undermine U.S.

national security interests, as well as

threaten our allies in the region. It is

clear that North Korea is not now, nor

has it ever been, an honest broker and

has never lived up to its international

obligations.

The time for engagement has long

since passed, Mr. Speaker. Kim Jong

Un has made his priorities clear: to obtain

a nuclear weapon and to support,

finance, and equip rogue regimes such

as Iran and Syria. Such support to

these state sponsors of terrorism

should be more than enough for us in

the United States to redesignate North

Korea on the terrorist list.

I introduced a bipartisan bill earlier

this week, the North Korea Sanctions

and Diplomatic Nonrecognition Act of

2013, that would do exactly that. This

is a critical moment for our allies in

Asia, and the United States must reaffirm

our unwavering support to our allies,

South Korea and Japan.

I urge my colleagues to join us in

condemning North Korea for its repeated

provocations and violations of

U.N. Security Council resolutions.