I thank the gentleman

for the time.

Madam Speaker, we have already

banned U.S. companies from conducting

business operations in Sudan.

Now we need to enlist American investors

to change the behavior of foreignbased

multinationals, to make it clear

that they cannot have the capital of

well-meaning Americans and the supposed

benefit of cozying up to the government

in Khartoum.

The way to do this, the way to

change the behavior of the Government

of Sudan, is to change the behavior of

multinational corporations. The way

to change the behavior of multinational

corporations is to change

American investment policies.

Scores of private organizations in

this country, including the University

of Southern California, have already

divested; some 19 States have already

adopted divestment policies. This bill

helps divestiture in two ways. First, it

provides some critical guidance to

those who want to divest. Those who

want to divest are faced first with the

issue of what standards to apply: Do I

want to divest in any company that

sells a candy bar in Khartoum, or do I

only want to divest against those companies

selling guns to the Government

of Sudan?

This bill focuses on those companies

providing the strategic assistance that

helps the Khartoum Government and

empowers that government. It identifies

the key investment sectors of the

Sudanese economy that government relies

upon. It draws the line that establishes

a clear standard. Others may depart

from that standard and have an

absolute rule: I don’t want to invest in

anything, any company doing business

in Sudan. But this bill provides guidance

to those who want one.

Second, the issue is which companies

do I not want to invest in. Here the bill

provides a list published by the Secretary

of the Treasury of those companies

violating the standards identified

in the bill.

As the chairman of our committee

points out, investors already have the

right to divest. They shouldn’t wait for

us to pass this bill. The fiduciary duty

to protect one’s beneficiaries is enhanced

if you divest from those businesses

doing business in Sudan, because

investing in terror is bad business

and the sign of bad management;

it exposes a corporation to

reputational risk.

Likewise, our cities and States have

the right to decide for themselves how

to invest their money. But even if you

buy the constitutional view, and I

don’t, that they can only divest when

consistent with American foreign policy,

you don’t have to wait for this bill.

Sudan is on the terrorism list. There is

no clearer statement of American foreign

policy that we want all Americans,

and all cities, counties and

States, to join with the Federal Government

in carrying out the Federal

policy to put economic pressure on the

government in Khartoum.

So I hope people will act now. To

some extent, what this bill does in

stating that fiduciaries are free to divest

is simply provide an end to an excuse.

They don’t need the excuse. They

ought to divest.