Mr. Speaker, I rise

in strong support of H.R. 180, the Darfur Accountability

and Divestment Act of 2007, and

I want to congratulate my good friend from

California, Ms. LEE, on producing the bill before

us today.

H.R. 180 would put much needed pressure

on the Government of Sudan by, (1) prohibiting

the U.S. Government from entering into

contracts with companies fueling the genocide,

(2) authorizing states to divest from the worst

offending companies in Sudan, and (3) authorizing

states to prohibit contracts with companies

fueling the genocide. This bill is necessary

because states deserve protection for

acting as responsible and moral market participants.

Furthermore, this legislation does not

affect American companies, and its provisions

would expire once the genocide has ended.

In 2004, I traveled to Darfur to see this devastation

first hand. I was shocked and appalled

at the level of human suffering. As the

vice-chair of the Foreign Operations Appropriations

Subcommittee, I have tried to improve

conditions in Darfur with humanitarian

aid and peacekeeping funds, but more must

be done.

This bill begins to do the things that our humanitarian

aid and our peacekeeping funds

can’t—address corporate and social responsibility

and put additional pressure on the Khartoum

government to end the genocide.

Again, I congratulate the gentlewoman for

her legislation, and I strongly urge an aye vote

for H.R. 180, the Darfur Accountability and Divestment

Act.