Mr. Speaker, I rise in

support of H.R. 180, the Darfur Accountability

and Divestment Act of 2007.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important

and timely legislation to authorize States

to divest from companies in Sudan, and to

prohibit new federal contracts with companies

doing business with the genocidal regime in

Khartoum. Current estimates indicate that as

many as 450,000 people have been killed and

over 2.5 million have been displaced due to

the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region of

Sudan. The security situation on the ground is

continuing to deteriorate and the violence is

spreading to surrounding countries.

As a member of the CBC and an African

American, I joined my colleagues in support of

H. Res. 333, in the last Congress, to designate

the weekend of July 15–17 as a National

Weekend of Prayer and Reconciliation

for Darfur. The tragic and unforgivable/unforgiving

genocide occurring in Darfur is as significant

as acts of terrorism on which we are

more focused. Over a million people, driven

from their homes, now face death from starvation

and diseases as the Government and militias

attempt to prevent humanitarian aid from

reaching them. These acts of genocide, civil

terrorism, and inhumanity must stop! And the

legislation we are considering today will go a

long way in achieving this result.

The Darfur Accountability and Divestment

Act of 2007 requires the Secretary of the

Treasury to create a list of companies who

have a direct investment in or are conducting

business operations in Sudan’s power, mineral,

oil, or military equipment industries. The

list will be published in the Federal Register

six months after enactment, and every six

months thereafter.

Many of our constituents are standing up

and demanding that their hard earned money

not be used to support a pariah government

that is killing its own people. In passing H.R.

180 today we will be doing our part help protect

the Sudan divestment movement at the

State level and to help it continue to grow.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of

this bill.