Mr. Speaker, I rise today in

support of H.R. 180, the Darfur Accountability

and Divestment Act of 2007. Congresswoman

LEE and Congressman PAYNE are to be commended

for their continued dedication to the

people of Africa—and to the people of Darfur

in particular.

It was September 2004—almost three years

ago—when then Secretary of State Colin Powell

declared that the situation in Darfur could

be described in no other way than ‘‘genocide.’’

And yet today, millions of people have been

run off of their homeland. Children who should

be in school, learning, are forced into armies.

Women are raped and brutalized daily. Refugee

camps are overrun. For many, the situation

seems hopeless.

World leaders take the stage day after day

talking—calling for an end to violence. Enough

talking. It is clear the government of Sudan

will not listen. Maybe the only way they will listen

is to hit them in their pocket book—and

that is exactly what we will do today.

This bill will identify which companies are

conducting business in Sudan—some would

say at the expense of the Darfur people. Once

these companies are identified, the U.S. Government

will be prohibited from doing business

with them. If the Sudanese Government won’t

listen to reason, maybe they will listen to the

sound of quiet cash registers.

We send a clear message that we will not

forget the people of Darfur.

From small groups like ‘‘Dear Sudan, Love

Petaluma’’ in my hometown to larger relief organizations

like UNICEF, we are committed to

peace and to a future of hope.