Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and let me express

my appreciation for your allowing a markup of H.R. 3127,

The Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. I want to thank you for

this very important markup.

We had hoped to get this to this point many months ago, as the

situation in Darfur continues to worsen, and the process has been

long and hard, but I am glad that we are finally seeing the bill before

this Committee today because genocide, which is orchestrated

by the Government of Sudan and its leadership and its proxies,

continues unabated in Darfur. The international community has

failed to act decisively. Collectively, the UN, NATO, EU have not

really been able to stem this brutal tide that has been going on for

several years.

If we had prevented genocide in Armenia in 1915 or had condemned

it, we probably would not have had the Holocaust in Nazi

Germany in the thirties, nor the Cambodian situation or the Rwanda

genocide. So we have to act, and I am pleased that for the first

time the genocide was going on, this U.S. Congress declared genocide

in July 2004. However, more must happen.

The substitute which we will vote on this morning is the result

of months of negotiations and compromise. I am pleased to say that

several Democratic revisions, we appreciate, were added to the bill

with the cooperation of Chairman Hyde and his staff, particularly

clearly defining the Government of Sudan and providing benchmarks

for the lifting of sanctions, which include ending the genocide

in Darfur, disarming the Janjaweed, disarming and ceasing to

give safe haven to the northern Ugandan terrorist group, The

Lord’s Resistance Army, which is being protected by the Government

of Sudan, and fully implementing the comprehensive peace

agreement between the North and the South, the war that has

gone on for 20 years, which has displaced 4 million people in the

South, and 2 million have died as a result of that conflict.

I want to thank my colleagues on the Subcommittee, particularly

Ms. Lee and Ms. McCollum, for their contributions to the bill.

These include language protecting the states from lawsuits for divesting

state pension funds from Sudan, which New Jersey, Illinois,

and California is considering, but those two states have

passed it already, and also the Congress language designating the

Janjaweed as a foreign terrorist organization.

I would also like to thank Representatives Watson, Meeks, and

Mr. Tancredo for their close involvement during the negotiations.

I would also like to indicate, although not on this Committee, Mr.

Wolf has been a true warrior in the problems of Sudan for decades,

and I would certainly like to express my appreciation to him.

I have some lingering questions on certain provisions. The main

question was whether the exemption we provided to sanctions in

our Executive Order 13067 for the South and the marginalized

areas applies to both exports and imports, the way it is written. We

received assurances from Chairman Hyde’s office that this was the

case, and we take assurances at face value that, indeed, it is both

imports and exports, which is a very important technicality.

Again, this day was a long time coming, but I am glad that we

are finally marking up this bill. We must hold accountable those

persons who are responsible for genocide at all levels, especially at

the highest level, in the National Congress Party, to ensure that

they are not free to commit these atrocities again. We think this

is a first step in the right direction.

High school students, college students, religious groups, state

governments, people are expressing their indignation that we cannot

allow genocide to continue, and so we hope that this will move

the Government of Sudan to act responsibly, but if it does not, I

think we need to look at additional legislation with no-fly zones,

with perhaps combat planes to ensure that the Government of

Sudan does not continue to use its gun ships and planes to kill and

maim people and that we would also hope to see an increase in a

more robust UN-NATO organization under the leadership of the

African Union, and we have to bring the perpetrators of the injustice

to justice. That is something that must be done.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to speak

on this bill.