Thank you, Madam Chair, and welcome to both of

you. You both do great work.

As you know, with the good help of our chair, I was the author

of—sponsor of the Syrian Accountability Act. Chairman Ros-

Lehtinen and I went around for a number of years trying to get

support in Congress. We did. The President signed it. And now,

from what I understand, the President is placing a robust series of

sanctions and penalties on the Syrian regime as a direct result of

our Syria Accountability Act.

Does the administration require any additional tools from Congress

to place additional sanctions on Syria’s assets? And if so,

what? And what can we do? What are the regime’s remaining pressure

points?

Well, thank you.

Let me ask you this. Initially, it seemed like we and the rest of

the world were reluctant to do anything to undermine the Assad

regime, which I thought was a mistake. But even the Israelis were

reluctant because it was sort of like better the devil you know than

the devil you do not know. I think that reluctance is gone because

I think we see Assad murdering his own people.

So I just want to ask you about the newly formed national council,

the Syrian opposition governing body. Are they the legitimate

representatives of the entire opposition and what do we know

about them?

Let me ask you this. If the Syrian regime, the Assad regime is

toppled—I realize it is a bit of a crapshoot, because we really don’t

know what is going to come, but does it not potentially have positive

ramifications for the area? In other words, Syria right now is

right back in the middle of Lebanon. We thought we had them out.

They are right back in the middle of it. Would it not be a blow to

Hezbollah and to the Iran regime if Syria were to go? Wouldn’t it

show the Iranians who are oppressed, the average person, that

there is some hope and maybe cause an undermining of the Iran

regime?