Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the

Flores amendment that will prevent funds in H.R. 5856--the FY13 Defense

Appropriations Act--from being used to carry out Section 526 of the

Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

Section 526 prohibits all federal agencies from contracting for

alternative fuels that emit higher levels of greenhouse gas emissions

than ``conventional petroleum sources.'' This means that if a federal

agency--particularly the Department of Defense--attempts to utilize an

alternative fuel that even has one scintilla more carbon emissions than

conventional fuels, it is prohibited from doing so. As a result,

Section 526 limits innovation from DoD to improve clean carbon capture

technologies for alternative fuels, thereby increasing our dependence

on foreign oil, and will only further increase fuel costs.

The amendment intends to remove the handcuffs placed on the agencies

under this bill by Section 526. This means that the DoD will still be

able to purchase Canadian fuels with traces of oil sands that may

create more of a carbon footprint than completely conventional fuel.

Mr. Chair, I support a full repeal of Section 526 because the cost of

refined product for DoD has increased by over 500% in the last ten

years when volume only increased by 30%. Furthermore, within the last

month, the U.S. Navy spent $26 per gallon and the U.S. Air Force just

spent $59 per gallon for bio-fuels used for the Administration's Great

Green Fleet Demonstration while conventional fuel bears less of a cost

on the Pentagon.

When defense spending is already facing $600 billion in sequestration

cuts, we must find commonsense ways to best utilize taxpayer dollars.

This amendment takes a very important step of achieving this goal by

prohibiting funding to carry out Section 526 for the upcoming fiscal

year at the DoD.

With that in mind, I commend my colleague from Texas--Bill Flores--

for his continued leadership on this important issue. I urge this body

to support this amendment.