Mr. President, in the coming

weeks, the Senate will consider S.

908, the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions

Act. Passing this bill should not

be difficult 76 Members of this body are

registered as cosponsors—but it is vital

that we do.

I support strong sanctions to build

pressure on Iran to end its illegal nuclear

weapons program, which, in light

of the recent disclosure of the Qom

uranium enrichment facility, may be

far more advanced than we realize.

However, China and Russia continue

to thwart meaningful action in the

United Nations Security Council. As

Bob Robb, a columnist for the Arizona

Republic notes, both nations have commercial

ties to the Iranian regime and

are unlikely to abandon their interests

and assist the United States in building

pressure on the Iran.

Mr. Robb also emphasizes that U.S.

efforts to halt Iran’s nuclear program

have taken on a new urgency after the

President cancelled the deployments of

the ground-based interceptors to Poland

and the Czech Republic.

Had the President managed to get

support from Russia for more sanctions

on Iran in exchange for sacrificing missile

defense, things might look different.

However, as shown by Secretary

Clinton’s recent visit to Moscow, Russia’s

position has not changed, and the

U.S. has nothing to show for breaking

its strategic commitments with two

important allies.

Time is not on the administration’s

side. Every day the Iranians stockpile

more uranium and get closer to having

long-range missiles capable of delivering

the world’s most dangerous weapons

against our allies, our deployed

forces, and our homeland. The time to

act is now.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent

that the op-ed by Mr. Robb be

printed in the RECORD.