Mr. President,

thank you very much. I appreciate the

Senator from Arizona recognizing me

to speak on this very important act.

The Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions

Act is more important now than

ever. I chair the subcommittee in the

Foreign Relations Committee which

deals with Iran. We have had a number

of hearings on this particular issue. We

just had a hearing last week on what

all Iran is doing around the world.

It might be of interest for many people

in this body to know that, according

to the State Department’s last report,

Iran is operating in some 21 countries

around the world with either terroristic

actions taking place or building

the base for further expansion of

their activities and interests and terroristic

actions to happen.

I am sure a number of people have already

noted as well the recent finding

by the Argentine Government of Iranian-

backed terrorists involved with

the horrendous bombings that took

place in that country earlier this decade.

The recent nuclear test by the Indians

drives this point home even

more. It is more urgent now than it

was even 10 days ago to alert the world,

and Iran in particular, that the United

States will not tolerate an Iranian nuclear

program, period.

The administration has already

shown lack of resolve in its recent decisions

to waive the sanctions on Total

and Gazprom under the Iran-Libya

Sanctions Act. This, in my estimation,

was a grave mistake, as the world has

now received the message that it is

once again free to fill the Iranian coffers

and help it pay for the development

of its nuclear capability, as well

as fund its terrorism activities overseas.

In the most recent State Department

report that was out less than a month

ago, Iran is the leading nation around

the world sponsoring terrorism as a

state. In the State Department’s most

recent report, Iran is the leader in this

most ignoble category.

We need to make the world understand

that Iranian development of an

indigenous missile capability, combined

with nuclear capability, is dangerous

to everyone. While Iran has

been quite open in its calls to annihilate

Israel, a nuclear-capable Iran will

threaten countries far beyond its borders.

The very countries which are now

planning to refill Iran’s coffers are the

countries which will be at risk in the

future.

The Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions

Act is not a country-wide sanction.

What we are proposing here is intended

to sanction specific entities

known to be providing Iran with missile

technology. This bill is an effort to

stem this dangerous flow to Iran and is

designed to impose certain sanctions

on foreign persons who transfer items

contributing to Iran’s efforts to acquire,

develop, or produce ballistic missiles.

There is good intelligence about

which Russian entities are involved.

Some of them are involved in joint

space cooperation with the United

States. These companies should know

that there will be costs if they engage

in behavior which so obviously threatens

our security interests, the security

interests of the region, and the security

interests of the entire world, from

the leading sponsor of terrorism

around the world, which is the Iranian

regime.

The administration claims it is making

progress with the Russian Government

on this matter, that we need to

give them time to implement the relatively

new decree tightening the export

of dual-use technology.

We keep hearing about the progress

we are making with the Russians, but

we do not see it. I might note as well,

there were recent bills passed in the

House of Representatives going at the

administration in this country about

the sharing of dual-use technology

with China and saying that this was

wrong what the administration has

been supporting.

How can we believe them that they

are going to be able to stop the Russians

when they are providing some of

this in a questionable dual-use area to

the Chinese?

Mr. President, we do not undervalue

what the Russian Government is trying

to do. We are all encouraged by the

progress that is being made. But the

fact remains that the transfers continue.

Just 2 weeks ago—2 weeks ago—the

Government of Azerbaijan intercepted

a transfer of materials going from Russia

to Iran which would have significantly

enhanced Iran’s ability to

produce missiles indigenously.

If the Russians are working so diligently

on this program, this bill poses

no threats and in fact really would help

them in these efforts. The bill would

not sanction the Russian Government.

That is a very important point to

make. It does not sanction the Russian

Government.

In fact, if the Russian Government is

serious about stemming the flow of

this technology, this bill only helps

them. After all, it is going after companies

which are now breaking Russian

laws.

Mr. President, there is no reason why

the U.S. taxpayer should be providing

any taxpayer dollars to companies that

are colluding with Iran to make that

country an even greater danger to the

United States, the leading country

sponsoring terrorism around the world

that is seeking to get this technology.

We cannot allow this river of technology

and assistance without doing

everything possible to stop it. This bill

works towards that goal. I encourage

my colleagues to vote for it. I encourage

the administration to sign it and

to help us stop the flow of this technology

to the leading terrorist regime

around the world that seeks to get

these weapons that can strike at U.S.

interests. This bill is clearly in the

United States’ best interests.

Thank you, Mr. President.