Madam President,

I rise to speak briefly about North

Korea and what is taking place there.

To put some of this in context, I think

everybody knows—around the country

and the world—what North Korea is

doing today. Two Americans are on

trial, in a crazy setting. They have a

missile on a pad that can reach the

United States. They have tested another

nuclear device. They have tested

previously a nuclear device. They are

in the throes of some sort of possible

change within the regime. It is a very

unstable, very provocative situation in

North Korea.

I raise all that because at the end of

the Bush administration, they took

North Korea off the terrorism list, and

they did it as a way to try to negotiate,

to try to get them into the six-party

talks to do more things and to work

with us and with the world community.

Since that period, the North Korean

Government has taken the exact opposite

tack. Instead of working with us,

they have done everything they can to

provoke us even further. President

Bush, when he took North Korea off

the terrorism list, said:

We will trust you only to the extent that

you fulfill your promises . . . If North Korea

makes the wrong choices, the United States

. . . will act accordingly.

That was President Bush. He is, obviously,

not President any longer. At

that point in time, many of us objected

to taking North Korea off the terrorism

list, but he went ahead and did

it anyway. Then Candidate Obama

said, at roughly that same period:

Sanctions are a critical part of our leverage

to pressure [North Korea] to act. They

should only be lifted based on North Korean

performance. If the North Koreans do not

meet their obligations, we should move

quickly to reimpose sanctions that have

been waived, and consider new restrictions

going forward.

Since President Bush said that, since

Candidate Obama said that, here is

what the North Korean regime has

done. I mentioned some of these, but I

will go into detail. They have:

launched a multistage ballistic missile

over Japan; kidnapped and imprisoned

two American journalists; pulled out of

the six-party talks, vowing never to return;

kicked out international nuclear

inspectors and American monitors; restarted

their nuclear facilities; renounced

the 50-year armistice with

South Korea; detonated a second illegal

nuclear bomb; launched additional

short-range missiles; are about to

launch a long-range missile capable of

reaching the United States; and, at

this very moment, are calling the detained

American journalists, Laura

Ling and Euna Lee, before a North Korean

court, if you could even call it

that possibly, to answer for supposed

crimes of illegal entry into North

Korea and unexplained hostile acts.

The two could face years in a North

Korean labor camp. That is what has

taken place since those statements.

We want to put forward an amendment

on this bill or on some future

bill—but I would like to do it and we

should do it on this bill—to label North

Korea a terrorist state again, like

President Bush said we should, if they

don’t act right; like Candidate Obama

said we should, if they don’t fulfill

their obligations. We think the administration

should do this now, should

relist them as a terrorist state. We

think it would be an important vote

and statement by this body if we would

say the North Korean Government is a

terrorist government because it is. It is

one of the lead armers to provide armament

to rogue regimes and individuals

around the world. Some of my colleagues

may have seen the story this

week about a North Korean general

who was one of the lead counterfeiters

in the world of United States one hundred

dollar bills. They were very good

quality, done on state machinery I

have no doubt. He is one of the lead

counterfeiters around the world.

Why, then, the State Department

would say earlier today that they don’t

think this ‘‘meets the test’’ is beyond

me. I think this body should vote and

send a very clear signal that we believe

the North Korean regime should be

listed as a terrorist state and a terrorist

sponsor. It has taken an incredible

list of provocative acts. The

Obama administration has said: Let’s

get the U.N. to issue sanctions against

them.

Let’s get the United States to do our

sanctions against them for what they

are doing. All this amendment does

that I want to vote on is have the administration

place North Korea back

on the terrorism list, where it rightly

deserves to be and should have been all

along. Of course, the amendment does

allow the President to waive the requirement

of relisting so long as he

certifies that certain conditions have

taken place, that they have met their

obligations, which they clearly are not

going to.

I think it is wrong for this body not

to be clear on this toward North Korea.

It is wrong for this country not to be

clear toward North Korea of what we

believe of their provocative actions,

that we will not stand by and say: Yes,

you can keep doing this; yes, you can

keep launching missiles; yes, you can

keep detonating nuclear devices, and

we will not do anything. We should be

clear we are going to act. These are

wrong and provocative actions, and

they deserve the minimum response

this is. That is why I would like to get

a vote on this amendment. I would

hope I would get a unanimous vote by

my colleagues to relist them as a terrorist

state. I would hope we could get

that up on this bill. We are in negotiations

now with the majority leader

about this. It is time to vote. It is time

to send this at least minimal message

to the North Korean Government that

these actions cannot stand without

some response from the United States.

I hope we could get a vote up on this.

I urge the majority leader and those

working on coming up with an agreement

to go to the next bill to allow us

to vote on this North Korean amendment

to provide these sanctions.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence

of a quorum.