That is very kind of you, Senator Nelson. Thank

you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, members of the panel. It

is obviously a very important issue.

Let me return, let me take the other side of what I thought was

a terrific point made by Senator Biden. We have generally, across

the board, said that a nuclear Iran is unacceptable. I happen to

share that view. But let me play devil’s advocate here, as I think

it is worth at least exploring the other side or examining why it

is not acceptable.

There was an article by Barry Posen, last week, arguing that you

essentially can maintain a containment posture to a nuclear Iran

that might not be optimal, but might be preferable to the scenarios

in which we have a significant oil embargo or we are engaging in

military action. What is clear in this situation is there are no good

choices. There are just better or worse choices.

I was wondering if you could specifically, any of you, all of you,

one of you, specifically address that argument that, in fact, when

you weigh the costs and benefits, discouraging Iran, that that is a

manageable process?

I think the question is not so much cheap arguments.

Two points. One is, we are actually moving forward. There

is an administration decision that is being made right now with respect

to India, so this is not retrospective. The question is, How

does that fit in with our posture toward Iran?

The second point, I guess, and it is a broader point, and then I

will stop because I am out of time and I do not want to abuse the

graciousness of my colleague, Senator Nelson, is it strikes me that

we have some disarray in terms of how we think about the NPT;

its structure. There is not sufficient coherence as far as I can tell

in terms of how we are approaching a lot of these problems. It

needs to be updated. We missed that opportunity just recently, and

I think this underscores how important it is for us to think about

Iran specifically, but also think more broadly about how do we

make sure that the NPT is meeting current challenges and closing

loopholes, something that we have been failing to do.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Well, what it certainly does is it makes Iran unable

to anticipate or predict entirely what our intentions are.