

The IAEA has also recently raised new concerns about the military nature of Iran's nuclear program. In February, the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency issued a report that said Iran may be working to develop a nuclear-armed missile, adding further evidence that Iran's nuclear work is not for peaceful purposes.

If Iran is successful in building a nuclear weapon and fitting it into a missile, the entire region will be at risk. Iran already has missiles with a range of more than 1,200 miles, which puts Israel, Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, and the Ukraine and many other countries within striking distance.

Advancements in Iranian technology threaten nations further away from Iran as well. Iran has launched a satellite into space, demonstrating that it has the technical capability that may allow it to build ballistic missiles capable of hitting American cities.

While nuclear proliferation is dangerous in any context, there is greater reason to be gravely concerned about a nuclear-armed Iran. For years, Iran has fought American presence in the Middle East and has supported terrorist groups that have targeted and killed American troops. For example, American officials believe Iran supported the group behind the 1996 terrorist attack on a U.S. military residence in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 of our servicemen. A nuclear-armed Iran would surely put American troops serving in the Middle East today at even greater risk.

In addition, Iran's leaders frequently speak of a world without Israel. The Iranian President has called for Israel to be "wiped off the map." If Iran gets a nuclear weapon, its leader will have the capability to do these hateful, destructive things that they speak of.

Americans and Israelis around the world would also be at likely greater risk of a terrorist attack if Iran obtains the bomb. Iran is already the leading state sponsor of terrorism, funneling money, weapons, and training to terrorist groups, including Hezbollah, Hamas, and other terrorist organizations. These groups have goals and ideologies inconsistent with our American values. Emboldened by a nuclear-armed Iran, they may launch even more frequent and deadly attacks on innocent civilians.

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Clearly, the consequences of a nuclear-armed Iran are intolerable. To stop Iran's drive to a nuclear weapon, we must act now and we must act decisively. The House of Representatives and the Senate have both passed legislation to impose strong and comprehensive sanctions on Iran. The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act and the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act target Iran's reliance on foreign suppliers to meet its fuel needs. Although Iran sits on top of a wealth of oil and nat-

ural gas, it lacks the ability to turn much of that oil into gasoline. Consequently, Iran imports 40 percent of its gasoline needs.

The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act and the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act offer the best prospect of compelling Iran to give up its pursuit of nuclear weapons. Congressional leaders must quickly resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of these bills while keeping the teeth of the sanctions intact so the President can sign a final bill into law.

At the same time, the administration and like-minded allies should impose multilateral sanctions now while also pressing reluctant nations to agree to strong and comprehensive sanctions at the United Nations. The administration must also enforce current law and levy sanctions against companies that violate our laws.

Time is not on our side. The sooner strong and comprehensive sanctions are applied on Iran the greater chance we have of preventing a nuclear-armed Iran, saving the lives of many, and enhancing the security of our own and that of our allies in the region.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CREATING AMERICAN JOBS THROUGH TRADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow Ambassador Kirk will meet behind closed doors with the House Ways and Means Committee. While I appreciate the meeting, why do congressional Democrats refuse to talk in the open about creating jobs through international trade? I am encouraged by the administration's newfound openness to promoting American goods and services overseas, but the current situation is bleak. Nearly one in 10 Americans who want work cannot find a job.

The recent economic downturn erased the certainty many families came to rely on, and now they turn to Washington for solutions. Unfortunately, a health care overhaul with new mandates, energy taxes that will drive up input costs, and a massive Tax Code full of quirks and loopholes add to

their doubts. To truly grow American jobs, entrepreneurs and businesses need new markets where they can compete to sell their products. We must restore American competitiveness to create new jobs and a prosperous future.

With 95 percent of the world's consumers living outside the United States, our ability to compete fairly and successfully in these markets is vital to our long-term economic growth and security. As the President said last week, "We need to compete for those customers because other nations are competing for them."

Today almost one in five U.S. jobs is supported by international trade. I welcome President Obama's lofty goal of doubling U.S. exports in the next 5 years through his National Export Initiative, and I look forward to discussing his plans with Ambassador Kirk.

As our economy continues to struggle, it is evident Americans will not be able to consume their way out of this recession, so we must focus on getting our products and services to emerging markets around the world. American ingenuity, creativity, and innovation can spur new jobs and new factories all right here at home.

According to the Obama administration, increasing trade by merely 1 percent would create 250,000 jobs, a significant start to helping Americans find work. Passing the Colombia, Panama, and South Korea Free Trade Agreements would accomplish just that, increasing our trade exports by 1 percent and creating an estimated 250,000 American jobs. These free trade agreements put American workers on a fair footing with workers in those countries instead of alienating our global trading partners through narrow-minded policies such as Buy American.

Now American-produced goods face substantial tariffs in Colombia, Panama, and South Korea, while many goods produced in those countries have no tariff at all when sold to the U.S. The President's goal is ambitious, so passing these three free trade agreements is an important first step to restoring American competitiveness in global markets.

The last time the U.S. doubled its exports, it took nearly 10 years: final implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, nine bilateral free trade agreements, and the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. Since 1994, Louisiana has increased its exports to NAFTA countries by 271 percent. As a result, thousands of Louisiana workers have job stability, but we can do much more.

Trade creates good-paying jobs for millions of Americans, and leveling the playing field abroad increases our opportunities. Truly supporting American workers and creating new jobs will not be accomplished by closing our doors to the rest of the world while they continue to strike new deals and expand their exports. Now is the time to reach and to work with our allies