

the current leadership. The recent IAEA report shows that Iran is not complying with its obligations under the treaty. We urgently need to keep a united front on the goal of preventing Iran from advancing its nuclear military capability. These sanctions could undermine that effort.

This bill is the wrong move for the global economy as well. In the middle of a very fragile economic recovery, these new sanctions could wreak havoc in the world oil market, right in the middle of winter, a time of our highest consumption. Already, we see oil prices rising. According to the Wall Street Journal, new sanctions could increase the price of oil by up to \$1 per gallon. That would be terrible for U.S. consumers, businesses and the economy. But it would be very good for Iran's leaders.

In fact, the sanctions would do more to help Iran's Supreme Leader and President than hurt them. Last week, the fierce competition between President Ahmadinejad and Ayatollah Khamenei was threatening to boil over when an embezzlement scandal roiled the Iranian leadership. The Washington Post reported this week that President Ahmadinejad admitted that the country is having a hard team with sanctions, and that now is not the time to shake things up in the government. In other words, external pressure unified rival factions, and helped the repressive regime to achieve a united front.

These sanctions could also hurt Iranian Americans. Sanctions on Iran's Central Bank will make it hard for Iranian Americans to send money to relatives in Iran. That could mean that an Iranian living in the United States has no legal way of helping his parents or grandparents. It could force them to pursue unsafe and illegal channels to send legal remittances to family members. That would be a terrible injustice, and it would be bad for U.S. interests. The Iranian American community is our best way to reach out to people in Iran, and we should not be making it harder for them to do so.

The sanctions could also hurt innocent Iranians in other ways. Aside from making it harder to import food and medicine, this bill bans the licensing of sales of spare parts for civilian airliners. Iran's airlines are already among the most dangerous in the world because of the difficulty in maintaining them under sanctions. Over 1,000 people have died in air crashes in the last ten years.

Lastly, this bill is wrong because it would be an expression to the world that the United States is not interested in having a relationship with the people of Iran. As it stands now, we have very little understanding of what is really happening inside Iran. The Obama Administration has strengthened our capacity to know what is happening inside the country by adding to a network of diplomats in missions around the world focusing on developments in Iran.

But we have a long way to go. Recently Admiral Mike Mullen said that this absence of contact is hurting us. At a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace event shortly before he retired, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said: "Even in the darkest days of the Cold War, we had links to the Soviet Union. We are not talking to Iran, so we don't understand each other."

I agree with Admiral Mullen: we need more contact with Iran—about Afghanistan, the drug

trade, and human rights—not less. Ambassador Tom Pickering, in a recent Newsweek essay, also criticized this bill because of the constitutional questions it raises about the separation of powers.

CISADA sanctions and U.N. measures are having a serious effect, and intensifying rifts in Iran's leadership. This bill would close those rifts as Iran's leaders circle their wagons, and would give them an excuse as to why things are bad on the economic front. I can't support it as it is written.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011—

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, due to a family medical issue, I was unable to cast the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

December 7, 2011—

Rollcall vote 892—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 893—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 894—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 895—I would have voted "no"
 Rollcall vote 896—I would have voted "no"
 Rollcall vote 897—I would have voted "no"
 Rollcall vote 898—I would have voted "no"
 Rollcall vote 899—I would have voted "no"
 Rollcall vote 900—I would have voted "no"
 Rollcall vote 901—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 902—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 903—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 904—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 905—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 906—I would have voted "no"
 Rollcall vote 907—I would have voted "no"
 Rollcall vote 908—I would have voted "no"
 Rollcall vote 909—I would have voted "no"
 Rollcall vote 910—I would have voted "no"
 Rollcall vote 911—I would have voted "no"
 Rollcall vote 912—I would have voted "yes"

December 12, 2011—

Rollcall vote 913—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 914—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 915—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 916—I would have voted "no"

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2011. This bill promises to meet the threat the Islamic Republic of Iran poses and takes significant, tangible steps in limiting Iran's uranium enrichment and targeting Iran's nefarious activities.

The latest United Nations weapons inspectors' disclosure and International Atomic Energy Agency report on the Islamic Republic of Iran are substantial. The Iranian nuclear weapons program is in direct contravention to Iran's ratification of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, endangers regional stability, and poses an unfathomable threat to international security.

The Iranian Regime has defied international order and expectations in its undeniable pursuit of nuclear weapons and its close relationship with foreign terrorist organizations.

That is why the Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2011 is so important. These sanctions are right and just based on irrefutable evidence of malice on the international stage. We must declare that it is United States policy to deny, at every juncture, the ability for Iran to fund and pursue its nuclear program and its policy of inciting violence abroad. The Iranian regime's continuous circumvention of past sanctions and continued noncompliance require more aggressive actions.

The only way to ensure the Iranian regime cannot circumvent international will is to take definitive actions. The sanctions in the Iran Threat Reduction Act in conjunction with the language in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2012 to formally sanction the Central Bank of Iran, CBI, are the steps required at this moment to impede the progress of Iran's ambitions. By sanctioning the CBI and creating accountability to those that deal with Iran, we limit the Iranian leadership's ability to function and directly curtail the infrastructures that sustain Iran's illicit nuclear ambitions and its state-sponsorship of terrorist organizations.

I urge my colleagues to support the Iranian Threat Reduction Act of 2011 and stand with me against the threat posed by the Iranian nuclear program and Iran's known links to various terrorist organizations.

RECOGNIZING THE PARTNERSHIP OF RACHEL CARSON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND DOMINION POWER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the partnership of Rachel Carson Middle School and Dominion Power in efforts to support green energy.

Through their partnership, Carson Middle School was able to recently install on its roof an array of 11 photovoltaic solar panels, which have already generated over 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity—enough to power a house for more than a month.

Rachel Carson Middle School is a Fairfax County public school with over 1200 students. The solar project was initiated in the spring of 2009 and driven by a group of former eighth grade students, its teacher sponsor, Mr. Kirk Treacle, and its Going Green Club, formerly established as Carson FREE—which stands for Future Renewable Energy Effort. The group was established in hopes that solar electric would be used in addition to several other prospective forms of renewable energy at school. The Going Green Club is researching wind, geothermal, solar thermal, and algae oil as future possibilities. The solar project was funded by grants from Dominion Power, the Earth Day Network, Lowe's, and InterfaceFLOR as well as donations from InScope International, Katydid Inc., the Carson PTA, and other individuals with no taxpayer money used.

The photovoltaic panels are "grid-tied" so the electricity they produce helps power the