



**Remarks of the Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs**

**Committee Markup: The Iran Threat Reduction Act (H.R. 1905), and the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Reform and Modernization Act (H.R. 2105)**

**November 2, 2011**

Today, the Committee is marking-up legislation to address the threat posed by the Iranian regime to our nation, our interests, and our allies. One Congress after another has passed Iran sanctions bills only to see them progressively weakened during the legislative process or not fully enforced by the Executive Branch. Some might wonder if it is worth doing at all. Well, yesterday, speaking in the so-called Iranian Parliament, the so-called President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad publicly admitted that sanctions against Iran were affecting its financial institutions, stating: "Our banks cannot make international transactions anymore."

But there's much more to be done. We must move quickly to tighten existing sanctions and add new and tougher ones, as we are doing today.

The Iranian regime's Achilles heel is its energy sector. As far back as 1995, former Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff stated: "A straight line links Iran's oil income and its ability to sponsor terrorism and build weapons of mass destruction...and any private company that helps Iran expand its oil [sector] must accept that it is indirectly contributing to this menace."

The Iran Threat Reduction Act is designed to clamp new and tougher sanctions on Iran's energy sector, threatening the regime's existence if it refuses to halt its nuclear weapons program. Negotiations and concession after concession to the regime have only been met with contempt. For 15 years, foreign energy companies have continued to provide, through their investments in Iran's energy sector, the financial resources for the regime to continue to pursue its nuclear ambitions, its chemical and biological weapons programs, and its sponsorship of international terrorism.

Fifteen years of pleading and concessions have only allowed the Iranian threat to steadily build. In its report earlier this year, the International Atomic Energy Agency all but stated outright that the evidence indicates that Iran is working on a nuclear weapons capability. We have wasted years and watched the threat develop, and now we must act before time runs out.

I am happy to say that HR 1905 has 343 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, including most of the Members of this Committee. Given that you are familiar with the introduced bill, I will briefly note some of the provisions of the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS). The ANS amends Title I of the bill by:

- Including a requirement that all entities currently granted an exemption under the “Special Rule” terminate their activities one year from the date of enactment;
- Adding bartering to the list of prohibited services related to Iran’s importation of refined petroleum; and
- Requiring the President to impose sanctions on any person who purchases, subscribes to, or facilitates the issuance of Iranian sovereign debt.

The changes to Title II include:

- Requiring the Secretary of State to issue guidelines describing goods, services, and technologies considered as “sensitive technologies,” and
- Expanding the definition of “foreign subsidiary” in existing Executive Orders.

The ANS sharpens Title III’s intended impact on the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or IRGC, by adding:

- Prohibitions on conducting commercial or financial transactions, or investments in entities controlled by the IRGC;
- Sanctions against affiliates of the IRGC; and
- Measures targeting foreign persons, entities and foreign countries aiding the IRGC.

Finally, Title VI is strengthened by:

- Prohibiting foreigners who engage in certain activities with respect to Iran from entering the U.S.; and
- Increasing the civil and criminal penalties under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

Following the markup, I will seek speedy consideration of this legislation on the House floor. I hope that the Senate will act with similar urgency on this or similar legislation so that we can proceed to conference quickly and have these bills on the President’s desk in time to hand the Iranian regime a nice Holiday present.

I now turn to the Ranking Member for any remarks he may care to make.

**\*\*Remarks on the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Reform and Modernization Act (H.R. 2105)\*\***

Today, we are also considering HR 2105, the Iran, Syria, North Korea Nonproliferation Modernization and Reform Act, for which there is an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute. This legislation has a finer focus than the Iran Threat Reduction Act’s broad reach, namely on those persons and countries which are directly assisting Iran’s efforts to acquire or develop weapons of mass destruction, especially its nuclear program, as well as missiles and other advanced conventional weapons.

It is not possible to stop Iran's nuclear weapons program without targeting its nuclear program as a whole, because there is no safe dividing line between those activities and facilities that are purely peaceful and those which are military-related.

Even seemingly safe materials such as low-enriched uranium can be used in radiological devices. So we have no choice but to target the entire sector which, I might add, is the subject of the UN Security Council resolutions as well, which call for a halt to Iran's entire nuclear program. Those penalties necessarily must include prohibiting U.S. nuclear cooperation with countries which either assist or allow their citizens to assist Iran's WMD program.

The ANS which is being offered adds some new and important measures, including:

- Changing the reporting requirement from every six months to every four months, and expanding the range of actions covered;
- Denying an exemption to those assisting the acquisition by Iran, North Korea, or Syria of destabilizing amounts of conventional weapons;
- Tightening the prohibition on landing rights in the U.S. regarding vessels that have visited ports in Iran, North Korea or Syria in the preceding two years.

I believe this amendment strengthens this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote for its adoption.

I now turn to my good friend the Ranking Member for any remarks he may care to make.