

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today urged the United States to continue to apply political and economic pressure on Iran as it continues to defy the international community in its pursuit of nuclear arms.

Mitchell is a co-sponsor of H.R. 1400, the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007, which aims to peacefully prevent Iran from securing nuclear arms and the means to produce them.

"Iran's defiant pursuit of nuclear arms is a threat to the peace and stability of the United States and the world," said Mitchell. "This is a defining moment for the United States, and for Congress. It must be a national priority to prevent the Iranian regime from acquiring a nuclear weapon."

The Iran Counter-Proliferation Act calls for enhanced U.N. Security Council efforts in response to Iran's continued defiance of the international community and expands bilateral sanctions against Iran by severely limited the export of U.S. items to Iran. Furthermore, the legislation prevents U.S. subsidiaries of foreign oil companies that invest in Iran's oil sector from receiving U.S. tax benefits for oil and gas exploration.

H.R. 1400 also prevents nuclear cooperation between the United States and any countries that provide nuclear assistance to Iran.