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Opening Statement of Senator Chuck Grassley  
Finance Committee Hearing on  
S. 970, the *Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007*  
April 8, 2008

This is an important hearing. The threat posed by the Iranian regime, particularly one armed with nuclear weapons, must be addressed. It is a leading state sponsor of terrorism, supporting groups like Hezbollah and Hamas. Its president has vowed to destroy Israel. It is working to enrich uranium for the purpose of developing nuclear weapons. It continues to pursue a missile arsenal to deliver those weapons.

Iran should not be allowed to develop or possess nuclear weapons. The international community has been clear in opposing Iran's efforts. The United Nations Security Council has passed three separate resolutions demanding that Iran suspend all uranium enrichment activity. Yet, Iran continues to defy the international community.

A nuclear Iran poses a serious threat to peace in the region, to our allies, and our own national security. The *Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007* is another important tool the U.S. can use to put even more pressure on the Iranian regime to abandon its quest for nuclear weapons.

The bill has strong bipartisan support. I'm glad that we're taking a serious look at this legislation today. While I agree with most of the bill, I don't yet support all of the trade provisions as they are currently drafted. For instance, I'm not comfortable with the way the bill links sanctions to the extension of preferential trade treatment and the process of accession to the World Trade Organization.

I want to ensure that we end up with a strong, targeted bill that is fully consistent with our general policy interests in promoting and enforcing the rules of trade. My staff has engaged Senator Smith's staff on these issues, and I want to thank Senator Smith for his willingness to address my concerns, and for his overall leadership on these issues. I look forward to continuing to work with Senator Smith to iron out my remaining concerns.

I hope that the Iranian regime and the Iranian people will see that their interests are not served by the pursuit of nuclear weapons. I look forward to working with my colleagues on efforts to continue to apply political and economic pressure on the Iranian regime. The Iranian leaders must understand

that their quest for nuclear weapons will not be tolerated and a measure like the *Iran Counter-Proliferation Act* is a strong signal of the U.S. position on this issue.