

This resolution will continue a successful program of overseas investment that was begun more than four decades ago.

I am also encouraged by the provisions in this resolution that outreach to minority-owned and women-owned businesses. The Overseas Private Investment Corporation will collect data on the involvement of minority-owned

and women-owned businesses. Indeed, this outreach is needed as minorities and women continue to lag behind their counterparts when it comes to establishing businesses. This economic disparity often results in social inequality that this body must continue to work against. We have made efforts to support

these same businesses in the United States and we must make similar efforts abroad.

I want to thank Chairman HYDE and Ranking Member LANTOS for their work in reauthorizing this important endeavor. In the future, I hope we will continue to come together as a body to support increased overseas investment especially among the disenfranchised.