Recently, on the national radio program The John Batchelor Show, I had the opportunity to discuss recent congressional efforts to help mitigate the spread of nuclear weapons. You can listen to this brief interview by clicking http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdBVnrozPIM .

The Executive Branch is now pursuing a civil nuclear materials sales agreement with Russia. Several House colleagues and I have serious concerns about this deal, given Russia's ongoing assistance to Iran's nuclear ambitions. Representative Ed Markey of Massachusetts and I have introduced legislation to stop the agreement and require an open debate in Congress about the consequences of this proposed partnership with Russia.

Russia must decide who it will be: a country that stops the spread of nuclear weapons or one that accommodates it. Congress must assert itself in this issue, in the interest of protecting our national security while preventing increased volatility in vulnerable parts of the world.