

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today commented on high-level discussions among world leaders at the Global Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington. Fortenberry, co-founder of the Congressional Nuclear Security Caucus, is scheduled to meet with key leaders during the Summit, which brings together 47 nations.

“Nuclear terrorism and nuclear weapons proliferation pose horrific dangers to our nation and to global security,” Fortenberry said. “The Summit marks an important step toward collaborative efforts to prevent nuclear materials from falling into the hands of violent extremists and halt the weapons development efforts of volatile regimes. After the Summit ends, nuclear security must remain a top priority for the United States and other nations.”

Yesterday, White House counterterrorism chief John Brennan reported on al-Qaeda’s aggressive and ongoing efforts to obtain the ingredients and expertise needed to assemble nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, President Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao met to discuss Iran’s pursuit of nuclear weapons-making capabilities in defiance of international obligations.

“Greater global commitment is needed to halt Iran’s controversial nuclear activities,” Fortenberry said. “I have long called for effective economic sanctions on the Iranian Government, given its unwillingness to join the responsible community of nations. Today I am joining fellow Members of Congress in a bipartisan effort to urge the President to rapidly implement the far-reaching sanctions legislation that Congress intends to pass.”

Fortenberry, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Subcommittee on Middle East and South Asia, co-founded the Congressional Nuclear Security Caucus in 2008.

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