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Prevent next quagmire by promoting peace

“After two decades in Congress, this is the first time I will be able to vote for peace, not just against war,” Central Coast Congressman Sam Farr said recently in a public statement.

Farr explained his statement about the pending Iran nuclear weapons agreement to a recent meeting with the Peace Coalition of Monterey County. Most pro-peace actions are about ending the latest quagmire. This one is about promoting peace and preventing the next quagmire. It’s a once-in-a-career opportunity for a congressman now in office 22 years. Why should voters support it?

First, it is verifiable. If Iran’s government doesn’t follow the letter of the agreement, it will face severe consequences.

Second, Iran could become a potential ally to oppose the spread of ISIS in the region; this could lead to long-sought-after regional stability.

Third, the United Nations and European Union have already approved the deal; the United States would forego its bad habit of going it alone.

Fourth, Israel with its formidable conventional and nuclear forces could remain strong after the deal.

But passage will be a close call. Help Farr, the Peace Coalition, and the 60 percent of American Jews who favor it, get it passed.

— *Thomas F. Lee, Monterey*