I thank the gentleman

for yielding.

I rise in strong support of this resolution.

We need to be crystal clear on

this. Without prior congressional authorization,

under the War Powers Act,

the President may only commit Armed

Forces to hostilities for 60 days if there

is a direct attack upon the United

States, its territories or possessions or

its Armed Forces.

There was none, so there is no 60-day

clock, and the unprovoked attack on

Libya—from day one—constituted an

illegal and unconstitutional act of the

highest significance.

And the question is, What are we

going to do about that? If the President

felt there was moral justification

to attack Libya, he was constitutionally

required to make that case to

the Congress and to get its authorization.

He did not.

Now, the argument we hear against

this resolution comes down to this:

we’re already committed; it’s too late

for Congress to order a withdrawal

without harming America’s reputation

or undermining its allies. Well, if we

take that position, we have just

changed the entire Constitution to

read as follows: the President may attack

any country he wants for any reason

that he wants and the Congress has

no choice but to follow. That’s what

they’re saying.

The President has crossed a bright

constitutional line, and this Congress

has a clear moral and constitutional

duty to intervene, and only the

Kucinich resolution actually does so,

short of sending a strong letter to the

President.

If we fail to do so, we will have destroyed

the work of the American

Founders by fundamentally changing

the legislative and executive functions

on the most momentous decision that

our Nation can make, and we will take

our country down dark and bloody

roads that the American Founders

sought to avoid.