Thank you,

Mr. KUCINICH, and thank you Members

of the House.

This issue of war and peace and separation

of powers transcends partisan

politics. A few years ago, together with

my good friend, STEVE ISRAEL, I began

what’s known as the Center Aisle Caucus,

which has a large membership

now. Our goal is bipartisan solutions to

America’s challenges, and this bill reflects

that approach.

H. Con. Res. 51, on paper, addresses

our illegal war in Libya; but, in spirit,

it calls into question American presence

in the Middle East, and it should

command the attention of the national

media, if you’re listening, and every

American citizen.

Today I issue a challenge to an often

divided Congress. To my Democratic

colleagues, I ask you to candidly acknowledge

that war is war, even when

a Democratic President initiates, or

perpetuates, that war. To my Republican

colleagues, I ask you to acknowledge

that a sincere and effective attack

on our crippling national debt, without

defense spending squarely on the table,

is indefensible and disingenuous.

To all of my colleagues, I ask you to

acknowledge certain realities: one, our

global warfare kills American men and

women and innocent people all around

the world every day.

Two, we cannot impose our standards

of democracy, humanitarianism, and

culture—as much as we want to—on

nations that don’t care and resent our

self-proclaimed role as judge and jury.

Three, there is little, if any, connection

between our actions in Libya and

the safety of citizens in St. Louis, Missouri,

or Mount Zion, Illinois. We spend

almost $700 billion a year on defense, a

significant portion of that for three

wars.

Three days ago, we voted on the issue

of whether to increase our national

debt limit to nearly $17 trillion. From

President Bush to President Obama,

and well before, Presidents have flagrantly

and arrogantly violated article

I, section 8 of the Constitution, not to

mention the War Powers Act.

The Speaker’s resolution that we will

vote on here in a few moments was

strongly worded—and I believe sincerely

offered—but it was just that:

words. It is not and should not be a

cover for any Member of this Chamber

to fail to support the Kucinich bill,

which puts teeth, real teeth, into congressional

prerogatives.

Support the Constitution, support

fiscal responsibility, and support peace.

Support the Kucinich resolution.