Mr. Speaker, today I

voted against both House resolutions that are

the wrong response to the United States participation

in an international coalition to deal

with the humanitarian crisis in Libya.

I do not, however, support an open-ended

commitment. Additionally, my vote last week

for the Conyers amendment to bar all funds

from being used to deploy, establish, or maintain

a presence of Members of the Armed

Services or private security contractors on the

ground in Libya makes clear I only support a

limited U.S. role.

Too often the greatest powers, including the

United States, have failed to act when they

could have intervened in a responsible way to

stop the slaughter of innocents. In Libya, it

was clear that there was a crisis developing

and America, with our NATO allies, the Arab

League, and the UN Security Council, appropriately

provided limited support to rebel

forces.

That assistance included a no-fly zone that

has undoubtedly saved thousands of lives.

It would have been an unfortunate precedent

and undermined key global institutions if

we failed to act with such a clear, unified call

for intervention.

Inaction would have endangered the recent

display of democratic aspirations by so many

in the region.

Our failure to act would have emboldened

the despots of Syria, Iran, Yemen and others,

suggesting there were no consequences for

murdering peaceful protesters.

Our primary role in the NATO mission has

been to provide operational and logistical support

to other countries that have taken the

lead on enforcing UN Security Resolution

1973.

The Kucinich resolution is ill-advised, requiring

U.S. forces to cease all operational support

for the NATO mission in Libya within 15

days. I believe that we must not turn our

backs on our allies and more importantly, the

innocent civilians in Libya who want the right

to choose their own government.

Speaker BOEHNER’s resolution, while not

calling for an end to U.S. involvement in Libya,

is factually inaccurate and attempts to rewrite

history.

I will welcome thoughtful legislation acknowledging

that the U.S. has chosen to answer

the cries of the innocent Libyan people,

but makes clear that our commitment to their

aspirations of self governance is not openended,

and which clearly defines our goals

and—more importantly—limits.