Mr. Speaker, I rise today in

strong support of H. Con. Res. 51, which expresses

the sense of Congress that we must

withdraw our armed forces from Libya no later

than 15 days after H. Con. Res. 51 is adopted.

It is the constitutional authority of the Congress

to declare war. In my view, the President

committed U.S. troops to a hostile environment

without Congressional consent.

Therefore, I voted for H. Con. Res. 51.

Simply stated, military intervention endangers

the lives of our brave men and women in

uniform and that of civilians on the ground.

And such a heavy responsibility necessitates

concurrence by the Congress. Moreover, our

Nation’s long term foreign policy cannot be

driven by threats of military action in every

corner of the world. In order to achieve long lasting

peace and stability, we need to lead by

example and look past the sword for solutions.

As lessons in Afghanistan and Iraq have

taught us, military action alone is not a winning

strategy for long-term security and peace.

Hearts and minds are not won over by tanks

and bombs. Instead, they are won by engaging

local populations and offering resources

that uplift entire communities.

I commend Representative KUCINICH for

bringing this Resolution to the Floor and I am

proud to support it. I always have and always

will use my vote and my voice to promote a

foreign policy aimed at bringing lasting peace

and prosperity to fragile, conflict-ridden regions

around the globe.