Let me thank my

colleague for yielding.

In March, when the President committed

our troops to NATO’s mission

in Libya, I said that he had a responsibility

to the American people to define

the mission, to explain what America’s

role was in achieving that mission and

lay out how it was to be accomplished.

He has not effectively done so. The

American people and the Members of

this House have questions and concerns

that have gone unanswered.

The President of the United States is

our Commander in Chief, and I have always

believed combat decisions should

be left to the Commander in Chief and

to the generals on the ground. But the

House also has an obligation to heed

the concerns of our constituents and to

carry out our constitutional responsibilities.

The resolution I have put forward expresses

the will of the people in a responsible

way that reflects our commitments

to our troops and to our allies.

Let me lay out exactly what this resolution

does.

First, it establishes that the President

has not asked for and that the

Congress has not granted authorization

for the introduction or continued involvement

of our troops in Libya.

Second, it reasserts Congress’ constitutional

role to fund our troops.

Third, it requires the President to

provide, within 14 days, information on

that mission that should have been

provided from the start.

And, lastly, it reaffirms the vote that

we took last week that says that there

should be no troops on the ground in

Libya.

I hope the President will recognize

his obligations outlined in this resolution

and provide this information to

Congress and, in doing so, better communicate

to the American people what

our mission in Libya is and how it will

be achieved.

The resolution offered by my colleague

from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) conveys

the concerns of the American people,

but it also mandates a precipitous

withdrawal from our role in supporting

our NATO allies in Libya. In my opinion,

that would undermine our troops

and our allies, which could have serious

consequences for our broader national

security.

In my view, the gentleman’s resolution

goes too far. We may have differences

regarding how we got here,

but we cannot turn our backs on our

troops and our NATO partners who

have stuck by us over the last 10 years.

In 1991 in my first vote as a Member

of this body, I voted to authorize the

use of force in the first Gulf War. It

was a consequential time, but I think

we did the right thing. And today is no

different. On behalf of the American

people and our country, we have an obligation

to support our troops in

harm’s way and to support our allies.

This resolution puts the President on

notice. He has a chance to get this

right; and if he doesn’t, Congress will

exercise its constitutional authority

and we will make it right.

I urge a ‘‘yes’’ on the Boehner resolution

and a ‘‘no’’ on the Kucinich resolution.