As we know, the War Powers

Act specifically forbids Armed

Forces from engaging in military action

in foreign lands for more than 60

days without congressional authorization

or the use of military force or a

declaration of war.

We have been actively fighting now

for 77 days. This is not just about our

mission in Libya. And let me just say

that I think our President, frankly, has

done a commendable job in handling

the very complex range of foreign policy

issues, but it is about any President,

any administration. It is not

about that; it is about standing up for

congressional power granted in the

Constitution. As our ranking member

said, the Kucinich amendment is the

amendment that addresses this head-on

in a very honest and direct way.

So we should reject this politically

motivated resolution. It is a resolution

that has just come up. We asked again

the Speaker and majority leader on

March 30 to conduct a debate and an

up-or-down vote. We conclude in our

letter that it is our position that the

President has a constitutional obligation

to seek specific statutory authority

for offensive military action, as he

should have done with regard to U.S.

military engagement in Libya.

Madam Speaker, let me

thank our ranking member for yielding.

And let me just say, first of all, I

rise in opposition to the Boehner resolution.

This debate is long overdue. On

March 30, I, along with Representatives

WOOLSEY, HONDA, GRIJALVA and WATERS,

sent a letter to Speaker BOEHNER

and Majority Leader CANTOR requesting

that they hold a debate and floor

vote on the President’s authority to

continue the use of military force in

Libya.

I would like to insert the letter into

the RECORD.