I thank my

friend and the chairman for yielding

me this time because I think it is important

to stress the importance of the

Boehner resolution. Especially on page

4 and page 7 of the resolution, it deals

specifically with the Constitution and

the constitutional responsibility of the

administration and the Congress to

work together, especially in matters of

national security.

As chairman of the Defense Appropriations

Subcommittee, as my colleague

has said, my responsibility is to

provide for the funding for any military

operation that is approved by the

Commander in Chief and approved by

the Congress.

On the matter of Libya, on April 1, I

sent a letter to the President, trying to

exercise my responsibilities as chairman—

a conciliatory letter, actually—

expressing support for our troops but

asking certain questions: How long do

you think this will last? How much do

you think it will cost? How much of a

future commitment have we made?

What will be the source of the funding

for this operation? Here, more than 2

months later, this official request from

the Appropriations Committee still remains

unanswered by the administration.

That’s just not right.

The Constitution is pretty clear. Article

I, section 9 of the Constitution, in

part, reads, ‘‘No money shall be drawn

from the Treasury, but in consequence

of appropriations made by law; and a

regular statement and account of the

receipts and expenditures of all public

money shall be published from time to

time.’’

So far, on the Libya issue, this article

I, section 9 has been totally ignored.

It’s just not right. That’s a violation,

in my opinion, and contravenes

the Constitution, itself. When I asked

for that information, the only thing I

got on the cost of this Libyan operation

was in bits and pieces. We have

added it, and we have come to about

$750 million already spent on the Libyan

mission. They’ve not confirmed

that, but we have put together, with

our own addition, bits and pieces on

that. Again, we have received no reply

whatsoever.

What I’m wondering is: Where is the

money to pay for the Libyan operation

coming from? What account is it coming

from? Is it coming out of personnel

costs—soldiers’ pay? Is it coming out of

medical care? Is it coming out of the

training for our troops? What accounts

are being used? We have a right and an

obligation under the Constitution to

know the answer to that.

Speaker BOEHNER’s resolution calls

very, very sharp attention to that

issue, so I think it is important that

the House passes the Boehner resolution

to let the President know that we

are not going to allow him to ignore

the Constitution any further when it

comes to war powers, when it comes to

spending for the welfare of our troops,

when it comes to appropriating money

for the defense of our Nation and for

the defense of our allies.

Madam Speaker, I do ask that the

letter that I sent to the President,

which has remained unanswered for

more than 2 months, be included at

this point in the RECORD so that my

colleagues can see that it was a very,

very legitimate and a very conciliatory

request, basically an offer to support

our troops in any legitimate activity.

So we are still waiting. We are standing

by, hoping that we do hear from

the President very soon, maybe shortly

after we pass the Boehner resolution.