I would like to thank

the chairwoman for yielding me time.

I rise in support of the Speaker’s resolution.

With 26 years of military service,

my experience has taught me many

lessons, and those lessons give me

pause and concern with regard to the

Kucinich resolution. I think we need to

be prudent, thoughtful and measured in

the way we end our involvement in

Libya, and I don’t believe that the

Kucinich resolution does that.

Even though the President did not

follow proper procedures and even

though he should have allowed Congress

to debate and decide the issue, a

15-day withdrawal would cause other

issues. Currently, the U.S. is providing

important refueling, logistics and

other support functions for our NATO

allies. Unfortunately, if you create a

15-day time line, those allies might not

have time to plan or build capacity to

resource their plan and effectively continue

their operations.

I don’t agree with how the President

has handled our current military mission

in Libya, and I don’t think he has

currently explained the national security

interest of our mission. However, I

think the troops that have been called

to action have performed admirably,

and I thank them for their service. But

now we are involved, and the time

frame for withdrawal in the Kucinich

resolution would hurt our NATO allies,

the same allies who have stood by us in

Afghanistan for 10 years. They deserve

our cooperation in any transition. I

support the Speaker’s alternative resolution

on Libya. I think it asks tough

questions of the President, and requires

him to explain our national security

interests and to justify his

strategy to Congress and to the American

people. If the President doesn’t

answer those questions within 14 days,

I believe Congress should continue to

assert its constitutional authority.

In response to the gentleman from

California, I would like to say that I

think it is important we get information

to make timely decisions. Therefore,

I support the Speaker’s alternative

resolution as a way forward in

Libya.