Madam Speaker, I rise today in

opposition to the Boehner resolution on Libya.

As a combat veteran myself, I am extremely

concerned any time that we commit to using

our armed forces to support military actions,

and I believe that close scrutiny of our country’s

involvement in the NATO-led operation is

essential.

I understand the frustration being expressed

by many here today about their level of consultation

in the decision to commence military

operations in Libya, but, as my colleague from

the Armed Services Committee ADAM SMITH

noted, Congressional leaders were invited to a

White House briefing and substantial information

has been provided to Congress since

then.

Based on my personal experience as Chairman

of the House Intelligence Committee, the

Obama Administration’s level of consultation

with Congress on these sorts of issues is

much more extensive and timely than during

the Bush Administration.

I, myself, had additional questions which

were not fully addressed by this week’s briefings,

and, while my colleagues were debating

the rule for this resolution, I simply called the

White House to request the information demanded

in this resolution. Much of the information

was provided immediately, with the

rest due back in the next few days. And when

I asked the White House about requests for

information they had received on operations in

Libya, they told me they had responded to all

Congressional requests for briefings.

Debating the bill before us may provide a

convenient opportunity for opponents of the

President to make political statements, but it

does so at the expense of our troops who are

actively engaged in combat operations. This

resolution threatens our critical NATO alliance

and emboldens our enemies.

The Boehner resolution—like the Kucinich

measure which we are also debating today—

potentially sends the message to our NATO

allies that the United States does not stand by

its commitments. At a time when we are relying

more and more on our NATO allies to support

the joint mission in Afghanistan, now is

not the time to turn our back on NATO.

Beyond straining relations with our closest

allies, this resolution sends an even more dangerous

message to Colonel Qaddafi. This resolution

is effectively telling a despotic dictator,

who has murdered and terrorized his own citizens,

that he can simply wait out the military

effort to protect the Libyan people because the

United States will not hold true to its word.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee,

as a combat veteran, and as an American,

I will continue to ask the hard questions

of our military and civilian leaders about military

operations over Libya. But I will not vote

for a measure that I believe threatens the security

and safety of our country and undermines

our President.