Madam Speaker, like

many members of this body, I have been outraged

by the President’s failure to comply with

the War Powers Act and to define the U.S.

mission in Libya. This Congress must not neglect

its responsibility and authority regarding

the use of force in Libya, and the debate we

are having today is long overdue.

I think most Americans, including myself,

agree that seeing Moammar Gadhafi and his

regime of thugs removed from power would be

a good thing. However, I think most Americans,

including myself, also feel strongly that

American forces should not be committed to

this kind of mission without the consent of the

U.S. Congress.

Our Founding Fathers envisioned a country

where the executive branch and the legislative

branch share the responsibility regarding the

use of force. President Obama has not sought

the consent of the Congress in terms of involving

American forces in Libya and that is

why we are having this debate today.

I rise in support of H. Res. 292. This resolution

demands that the President provide answers

about our involvement in the conflict in

Libya, including the President’s justification for

not seeking Congressional authorization for

this action. The resolution gives the President

14 days to respond to this request. The President

should take very seriously this resolution.

And our leadership in Congress should be

vigilant to demand a full and clear response

from the President. This resolution also gives

adequate notice to NATO and our other allies

of the concerns of the House before the

House takes further action. The further action

must take note of the President’s failure to

comply with the War Powers Act and notwithstanding

that fact must also take note of our

Nation’s foreign policy interests and efforts to

combat terrorism.

H. Res. 292 is an important first step in restoring

the balance that our Founding Fathers

envisioned, that our legislative and executive

branches share the responsibility regarding

the use of U.S. force. However, the action

taken today should not be the last step. In 14

days, the House of Representatives should reconvene

to evaluate our continued involvement

in Libya. We must then make hard decisions

about the operation in Libya and the role

of the United States in this conflict. I hope my

colleagues will join me in remaining vigilant

and demanding accountability from the White

House.