Madam Speaker, I rise in support

of the Boehner resolution, H. Res. 292

and also to announce my opposition to the

resolution offered by Mr. KUCINICH.

Let me be clear, I will never jeopardize support

for our troops, and I will always maintain

the proper level of deference and respect due

the Commander in Chief in matters of war. But

I do not believe the President of the United

States has the authority to take America to

war without congressional approval where our

security and vital national interests are not directly

threatened.

The President told the American people in

his address to the Nation on March 28, 2011,

that it would be a mistake to broaden our mission.

He said, ‘‘We went down that road in

Iraq.’’ Now, more than seventy-five days since

hostilities began in Libya, it has become all

too clear that the road we are currently taking

is quite different from that we took in Iraq.

In Iraq, we had a clear objective. We had

congressional bipartisan approval in both

Houses, international support, and through

trial and the sacrifice of blood and treasure,

we are now on the edge of victory. Here in

Libya, there is no clear objective, no congressional

approval, and uncertain international

support. We are on a different road.

Speaker BOEHNER’s resolution before the

House today, H. Res. 292, will prevent the

President from committing American ground

forces in Libya and requires the Administration

to finally justify why it committed our military

resources in Libya without seeking consultation

from Congress. When passed, this resolution

will also force the Administration to report

to the Congress the political and military objectives

regarding Operation Odyssey Dawn.

Let me also speak to the resolution of the

other gentleman from Ohio, Mr. KUCINICH. I

have never believed it to be wise to tell the

enemy when you will quit fighting. More significantly,

it cites the constitutionally dubious provisions

of the War Powers Resolution and I

cannot support it.

In closing, let me just say that history has

taught us that America has succeeded only

when we have chosen to send our men and

women into combat with a clear objective to

win. In this instance, where the Administration

has not demonstrated how American military

involvement advances our national security interests

and where the President has failed to

provide the American people with a compelling

reason to commit our Armed Forces, there is

no clear objective to win.

The Boehner resolution will force the

Obama Administration to bring its case to the

American public before further committing our

men and women in Libya and I urge its immediate

passage.