I thank the gentleman

from Florida for yielding time and I

commend him for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support

of this bill and in defense of the Constitution.

The Founding Fathers clearly

intended for Congress to have the

power to commit this Nation into

armed conflict.

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution

states that Congress shall have

the power to declare war. Our first

Commander in Chief, George Washington,

knew that when he said,

That is exactly what this bill is

about, and President Obama, when he

was a Senator, knew this when he said

that, ‘‘The President does not have

power under the Constitution to authorize

a military attack in a situation

that does not involve stopping an actual

or imminent threat to the Nation.’’

He went on further to say that, ‘‘No

law can give Congress a backbone if it

refuses to stand up as the co-equal

branch the Constitution made it.’’

I couldn’t agree more with him, but,

unfortunately, as President, Mr.

Obama appears to no longer agree with

his prior interpretation of the Constitution,

and in reviewing the War

Powers Act, we can argue that it is unconstitutional,

but that is for the Supreme

Court to decide.

In applying the War Powers Act to

the facts here in this case, it is clear

that the President failed to comply

with the requirements to get congressional

approval; and when we examine

the merits of the case for involvement

in Libya, this administration has wholly

failed to define a clear national interest,

mission, or goal.

Why are we there? Are we there to

kill Qadhafi or to provide humanitarian

aid? And since when does humanitarian

aid come from a missile

launched from a Predator drone? And

who are these rebels that we are supporting?

The administration has failed

to provide Congress with a clear answer

to this question, but we do know

that some of them are tied to terrorist

organizations.

The bill introduced by my good

friend from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) reasserts

Congress’ role as a coequal

branch of government, and it sends a

clear message to the President that he

must get congressional approval before

he commits this Nation to war, as he

stated when he was in the United

States Senate.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge a

‘‘yes’’ vote on this bill.