I would beg to depart

from the remarks of the distinguished

gentlelady from Texas because there

are those of us who oppose this bill in

principle, and we believe we are fighting

for justice as well.

I want to state that if you believe the

war should end, then at least believe

we should limit it today. That’s what

Mr. ROONEY does. I oppose this war. It’s

unconstitutional. It’s in violation of

statute. And there’s a two-step way to

end the war: Vote for Rooney, step one,

and then the Kucinich-Amash amendment,

which defunds the DOD bill. You

can do that when we come back.

But to claim that the Arab League is

somehow asking for us to continue this

attack on Libya is plain false. The fact

of the matter is we have al Jazeera reporting

that Italy’s foreign minister

and the outgoing head of the Arab

League have each called for a halt to

hostilities in Libya. It was reported

that 2 days ago, Amr Moussa, the outgoing

head of the Arab League, said

now is the time to do whatever we can

to reach a political solution, and that

has to start with a genuine cease-fire

under international supervision. So

you don’t have the Arab League’s head

here saying, Oh, America, come on. Go

for it. Prosecute the war. Bomb Libya.

No, they’re not saying that at all. We

have to be very clear about that.

Even China, who’s eating our lunch

financially, they’re not involved in this

war. They’re saying there ought to be a

political solution, that from the Chinese

minister 2 days ago. We’ve got to

be careful about our intentions here.

And our intention should be to end this

war, and we can do it with Mr. ROONEY’s

bill.

The bill isn’t perfect. It doesn’t end

the war in its entirety immediately,

but it does make clear that the United

States will not take over the war as

European support continues to diminish.

The Kucinich-Amash amendment is

complementary to the bill. We want to

end U.S. involvement in the war in

Libya. We can do it in two steps. Vote

‘‘yes’’ for Mr. ROONEY’s bill, which ends

direct hostilities immediately, and

support Kucinich-Amash when it comes

up in 2 weeks.

I want to thank Mr.

ROONEY and thank my colleagues. I

think this has been a very important

debate for this country and for our

Constitution.

I am opposed to this war and I want

to end it. I think Mr. ROONEY’s bill is a

powerful step in the direction of ending

the war, but it’s not the only step that

we should take. It’s the first step. The

first step is a vote for Mr. ROONEY’s.

You limit the war, and you stop the

combat ops. Then the second step

would be to vote on a defense appropriations

amendment that would strike

all funding for the war. So we take two

steps here—the first step today.

We have some of the best people in

this Congress who have been in this debate

today, and they don’t agree with

Mr. ROONEY’s bill. What they’ve said is

that this bill would end the mission in

Libya; and they’ve said that, if you

don’t have the ability to suppress, you

couldn’t continue with the bombing

campaign. These are people on our side

of the aisle who want to defeat this

bill. They’ve made the argument, I

think, as to why we should pass it.

I want to thank Mr. ROONEY for his

leadership, and I urge a vote in favor of

Mr. ROONEY’s bill.

What? We don’t have

enough wars going on? A war in Iraq, a

war in Afghanistan? We need one more

war? We have to wage war against another

nation which did not attack us?

We have to wage war against another

nation which does not represent an actual

or imminent threat to the United

States?

Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you that

I have been all over this country, and I

haven’t had a single person come up to

me to tell me, ‘‘You know, DENNIS,

what America needs is another war.’’

The last thing we need is to be voting

to go to war. There are plenty of reasons

to oppose the war in Libya:

It’s unconstitutional. Article I, section

8 has given the Congress the power

to declare war.

It’s illegal. The War Powers resolution

was passed over Presidential veto

to allow the President latitude to respond

when there is an imminent

threat to the U.S. while retaining the

constitutional duty of Congress. Even

the President’s top legal advisers at

the Pentagon and the Department of

Justice determined that the War Powers

resolution applies to the war in

Libya.

Another reason is that Americans

don’t want this war. A poll taken at

the beginning of the month by CBS

found that six in 10 Americans do not

think the United States should be involved

in a conflict within Libya. Just

30 percent of Americans in that poll

thought the United States was doing

the right thing by taking part in the

current military conflict. A majority

of Republicans, Democrats and Independents

alike think the U.S. should

not be involved in Libya.

Next, this war is a distraction. Our

flailing economy demands the full attention

of Congress and the President.

The American people have little patience,

or less, especially for a war of

choice.

Then there is the cost of the war, Mr.

Speaker. We’ve spent $750 million so

far. If we keep going on, it will cost billions.

We have to end this war. Vote

against this authorization.

I want to thank the

gentleman and also associate myself

with his remarks just now. We were

told this is about protecting civilians.

It has become a cover for regime

change. And just because we can

change a regime with military power

doesn’t mean we should do it. And

using military action doesn’t mean

that you’re going to achieve the objectives

that maybe you haven’t even

clearly defined.

Furthermore, if our allies make a

mistake, do we follow them? If our allies

are going out of the war, why

should we go in? Right now, you have

China’s foreign minister saying we

hope the two parties in the conflict can

attach importance to the country and

the people’s interest and earnestly consider

the international community’s

relevant resolution plans, quickly

cease hostilities, and resolve the Libyan

crisis through political channels.

Amr Moussa, the outgoing head of

the Arab League, said this 2 days ago:

Now is the time to do whatever you

can to reach a political solution that

has to start with a genuine cease-fire

under international supervision.

The President of South Africa said a

few days ago that this is about regime

change, political assassination, and

foreign military occupation.

Vote against this resolution.