I thank

the gentleman for yielding.

America is a beacon of light around

the world. At a time when many were

cowering in their house wondering if

this genocide that Qadhafi was bringing

to their doorstep would come tomorrow

or the next day, American

fighters came in and pressed Qadhafi’s

forces back and pushed him back into

Tripoli.

America has stood for the side of

freedom in this Arab Spring. America

has stood for people that don’t have a

voice for themselves. Don’t let a dispute

between the legislative branch

and the executive branch result in us

pulling the rug out from standing up

for freedom. America has a responsibility

to finish this through, to stand

with our allies.

To leave now means Qadhafi wins, period.

I urge a ‘‘no’’ vote on this resolution.

I thank

the gentlelady for yielding.

I stand today in support of this resolution.

The world is watching our actions

today. The world is asking: What are

we going to do? We talk all the time

about allowing Europe to take the lead

in certain areas, about allowing NATO

to take the lead in foreign policy, and

they have done that. Now will we today

pull the rug out from under them simply

because we have a dispute between

the legislative and the executive

branches?

I think the President should have

come to this Chamber, too, but he

didn’t. Yet the wrong thing to do is to

pull funding, and the right thing to do

is to give him the authorization to go

into Libya. A slaughter almost occurred,

and we were able to stop it by

our presence there. The vote we take in

the House today will have implications

far beyond our shores and far into the

future. Finally, I am reminded of a

quote by George Washington, in which

he states, ‘‘Liberty, when it begins to

take root, is a plant of rapid growth.’’

I support this resolution and would

urge all my colleagues to do the same.

In doing so, we will be supporting the

planting of freedom and liberty in the

Middle East.