Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of

this resolution.

I wish our action today were unnecessary.

As I noted earlier this year when the President

initiated military action in Libya, he would have

been better served by putting this matter before

this body in advance of taking action, not

afterwards. And as I predicted then, the President

has been subjected to almost daily second

guessing, criticism, and frequently partisan

attacks over this operation. All of this

was avoidable.

None of us wish to abandon freedom-seeking

Libyans or our NATO allies, and a vote for

this resolution does not mean we are doing either.

Our logistical and intelligence support to

NATO will continue uninterrupted. Our capacity

to conduct cover action to assist the Libyan

rebels will remain unimpeded. And the ability

of the international community to continue to

provide humanitarian aid to the people of

Libya will be unaffected.

I am voting for the Rooney bill for what it

says, not for what some in the majority say it

says. This should not be used as a club to attack

President Obama. I will support this

measure because it is absolutely imperative

for the Congress, as an institution, to remind

the President that the power to authorize military

actions and war resides in this body. We

strengthen our democracy by passing this resolution,

we strengthen this institution by passing

this resolution, and we honor our NATO

obligations, and we stand by Libyans seeking

self-determination, and that is why I urge my

colleagues to join me in passing this resolution.