It’s high

time that Congress asserts its authority

and engages proactively with the

administration on this most serious

question of war. I just wonder where

my colleagues have been all these

years that we have had Presidents and

war. It will be interesting to see a

matchup of their votes with this one.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation

authorizes the limited use of

United States forces in support of the

NATO mission in Libya. This legislation

is a bipartisan effort to prevent

the kind of open-ended, indefinite military

commitments we have elsewhere

in the world. Register that as Afghanistan

and Iraq. This resolution is a companion

to forward-leaning Senate legislation

introduced by Senators JOHN

KERRY, JOHN MCCAIN, BENJAMIN

CARDIN, and RICHARD DURBIN. Immediately

after they introduced the resolution

in the Senate, I brought it to

the House so that we can make

progress on this very important debate

before us.

If I had my way, Mr. Speaker—and I

don’t—we wouldn’t be in Libya at all.

But I don’t have my way, and here we

are, and the solution now is not to cut

off all funding and suddenly walk out.

We have a responsibility to our allies.

As long as we are continuing to supply

logistics, materiel, and critical intelligence

and operational capabilities—

and no boots on the ground—we must

support our allies who are carrying out

the direct combat operations. We must

stand with NATO.

Again, Mr. Speaker, if I had my

way—and I don’t—there are revisions

to this resolution that I believe the

Congress ought to consider. I maintain

that a better date to end the authorization

would be the end of September,

and certainly no later than December.

The 1-year authorization limits the

President’s ability to engage our

Armed Forces indefinitely so that we

don’t find ourselves neck deep in yet

another war.

This authorization

prohibits the use of ground

forces and at the same time requires

the President to continually report to

Congress. I would rather us use some of

Libya’s frozen assets so that we could

have them pay for the mission that

they began.