Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Joint Resolution 114.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to

address the House today in support of the resolution before us. The decision to allow our

military to use force against Iraq will be one of

the most important votes we cast in this Congress, but the responsible choice to support

the resolution is clear.

Over the past few weeks, we have labored

over the proper scope and limitations for this

significant measure. The compromise language has been drafted by key House and

Senate leaders, and the President.

This resolution is in the best interest of

America’s national security. After a decade of

deceit and deception, in which we have per-

mitted a hostile dictator to repeatedly violate

every agreement we have in good faith put

before him, the use of force has become a

necessary option. I think I speak for all members of this Congress when I say that I hope

and pray that military force does not become

required; however, we must prepare for all possible outcomes.

This resolution protects the Congress’ ability

to remain fully involved in future decisions and

actions in Iraq. It provides the resources for

the United States to act ion the best interest

of our national security, while remaining committed to generating support for a multilateral coalition.

I support our President and commend his

efforts to ensure that the citizen’s of American

do not live in fear of another tragic terrorist attack or of harm from rogue nations. With passage of this resolution, we will provide our

Commander in Chief with the resources necessary to carry out his greatest task of all—

providing for the continued safety of our citizens.

This resolution to authorizer military action

against Iraq is one that has been seriously deliberated by the President, his policy makers,

and this Congress.