Mr. Speaker,

I rise in support of the Lee amendment.

What is our goal? Our goal is to end

the threat of Iraq’s weapons of mass

destruction through comprehensive

and unfettered inspections and disable

their ability to develop or deliver

them.

How do we get there? Until the Lee

amendment, most suggested, with a

military stick. I think a carrot is more

likely to succeed.

What carrot? The carrot of lifting

economic sanctions on Iraq in exchange

for comprehensive and unfettered

inspections. Offering to lift economic

sanctions in exchange for unfettered

inspections will rally support

within Iraq and among our allies.

This positive incentive to get Iraq to

comply has not and is currently not

being offered by the Congress of the

United States. But until we make this

overture and change our policy of only

lifting economic sanctions after a regime

change, we will not have exhausted

all peaceful means and alternatives

to force.

Give peace a chance, Mr. Speaker.

Nonviolence, negotiations and inspections

deserve a chance. Lift economic

sanctions on the people of Iraq in exchange

for unfettered inspections in

Iraq. It will gain support within Iraq

and amongst our allies.

I thank the gentlewoman for offering

the amendment.