Mr. Speaker, I

thank my colleague for yielding me the

time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to state my

strong support for the gentleman from

South Carolina’s (Mr. SPRATT) substitute.

As a member of the Committee on

Armed Services, I am deeply concerned

by the threat posed by Saddam Hussein’s

weapons of mass destruction, but

I also strongly believe that the United

States has a responsibility as the

world’s only superpower to set a standard

for international behavior. We

must consider every peaceable alternative

and contemplate every possible

outcome before we turn to force.

The gentleman from South Carolina’s

(Mr. SPRATT) amendment is invaluable

because it strengthens America’s position

at the United Nations in support

of new Security Council resolutions

that Secretary Powell is negotiating as

we speak.

The gentleman from South Carolina’s

(Mr. SPRATT) amendment sends a

strong signal to our allies and to Saddam

that the United States is committed

to defeating the threat posed by

Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

It ensures that our actions have

international legitimacy and that, just

like in 1991, we share the cost of war

with our allies instead of putting the

burden solely on the American people.

If we are unable to secure resolution

at the U.N., it provides for expedited

congressional consideration of a joint

resolution authorizing the use of force.

I encourage my colleagues to vote for

the Spratt amendment.