Mr. Speaker, I rise in

support of the resolution.

I rise today in strong support of this resolution,

authorizing the use of the United States

Armed Forces against Iraq and the dictatorial

regime of Saddam Hussein. Our President

needs the assurance of this body that it will

support his actions to keep our nation and the

global community safe, from the current Iraqi

government and its demonstrated capability

and willingness to use weapons of mass destruction.

As the Administration continues its negotiations

with members of the United Nations Security

Council, to compel Iraqi compliance with

current U.N. resolutions, the rest of the world

must know that we stand united in our actions.

The United States government cannot allow

Saddam Hussein’s continued development of

chemical and biological agents and weapons

of mass destruction. These actions are in direct

violation of Iraq’s obligations under the

1991 cease-fire agreement that brought an

end to the Gulf War.

I was a member of this body during the

102nd Congress and do not consider lightly

any congressional action that may lead to the

loss of American Servicemen’s lives, or those

of innocent civilians. Let us be clear about

what we are communicating with this resolution

here today. Because it is vital to United

States’ national security, we are supporting

the President’s efforts through the UN Security

Council ‘‘to ensure that Iraq abandons its

strategy of delay, evasion and noncompliance

and promptly and strictly’’ abides by all relevant

Security Council resolutions. We are

calling for war.

President Bush has made clear his commitment

to work with the United Nations to address

the common threat posed by the Iraqi

regime but we can not restrict his options for

protecting the American people. I have full

confidence in our President and Administration

to continue productive negotiations; and, if the

decision is made necessary, lead this country

in effective military action to bring an end to

this clear and present danger.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting

this resolution.