Mr. Speaker, my greatest responsibility

as a Member of Congress is to protect

America against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

This responsibility includes taking preemptive

action, if necessary, to protect our

homeland and national security interests. On

September 14, 2001, Congress adopted a resolution

that authorized the President to take

such action.

Iraq must follow the terms it agreed to at the

end of the Gulf War, cease its attacks on U.S.

and other peacekeepers in the region, end its

promotion of terrorism and weapons of mass

destruction, and end its persecution of its own

people. Should Iraq continue to ignore the 12

U.N. Resolutions and the agreements he

made at the end of the Gulf War, I will support

President Bush in the actions he sees necessary

to ensure the safety of our citizens, as

well as our allies and interests abroad. The

vote today makes clear to Saddam Hussein

that time for Iraq to finally meet the requirements

of the international community has run

out.