Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 114, the bipartisan

resolution authorizing the use of military

force against Iraq.

Like most Americans, I understand that our

security is threatened by rogue nations suspected

of crafting biological and chemical

weapons, and by those who seek access to

nuclear weapons. I am convinced that Iraq is

building an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction,

following repeated refusals, over

many years, to comply with United Nations

weapons inspections. I believe it is our responsibility

to ensure that Saddam Hussein is

no longer positioned to pose a major and imminent

threat to U.S. national security. I further

believe that the President should have the

authority to use force against Iraq, if he deems

it necessary.