Mr. Speaker, no Member of this body ever

wants to put our men and women in

harm’s way in a war, a war that will

undoubtedly cost lives and inflict anxiety

on the families of the loved ones

who are in harm’s way.

My community hosts the Navy’s future

force in schoolhouses, in the Air

Force’s current command and wing

commands and special operation units.

It is these brave men and women who

will fight this war.

These are the men and women who

will put their lives on the line for us

and defend freedom.

I do not question the need for this action.

I do not question the risk that is

presented. But I do not wish for this

war. I wish with all my soul that this

monster could be removed from power

without firing a single shot. I wish the

people of Iraq would rise up and put

their lives on the line, as our military

personnel will. I wish we did not have

to send America’s sons and daughters

to liberate their sons and daughters

from a man who murders his own people.

I wish our European partners

would see the threat as we do. I wish

they would use their tools to unite a

common response to Iraq rather than

sow the seeds of division seen in the

parliaments and personal political

campaigns of our allies. But most of

all, we see that the world is content to

ride our backs to prosperity and to

freedom, a weight that we have carried

before and, apparently, will carry again.

Mr. Speaker, I know this task must

be carried out by the United States of

America. We must face this continued

threat of terrorism head on, alone, or

with our friends. And this position is

no different than our position in the

past. As leaders of the free world, we

have always walked point. Mr. Speaker,

we must trust our values, protect

our freedom, and let liberty be our

guide. This strategy has served us well

over the past 200 years, and I can think

of no reason to turn our back on it today.

I support the President of the United

States, and I support this resolution.