Mr. Speaker, I

rise in very strong support of this joint

resolution authorizing the use of military

force against those responsible for

the September 11, 2001 terrorist acts

against our country.

We are about to make what, for most

of us, will be the most important vote

in our time as Members of Congress.

Authorizing the use of force is a monumental

event, and its significance

should not be minimized. This resolution

is not about vengeance; it is about

victory, it is about winning a war

against an enemy that is actively seeking

to kill American citizens and destroy

our way of life.

We are not naive. The use of force

has many risks, but we risk more by

doing nothing. This resolution acknowledges

that the world is a different

place today, but we have the

ability and the will to win a war

against terrorism. The security of

American lives requires us to succeed.

I urge adoption of this resolution.