Mr. Speaker, I rise in

strong support of this legislation extending

to the President the authority

to take the steps necessary to respond

against those persons, organizations or

nations responsible for the attacks

against America last Tuesday.

I believe this authority fully complies

with Congress’ constitutional and

statutory authority in authorizing the

use of force in the defense of the Nation.

It is necessary, I believe, to send

a message loud and clear that the

President and the Congress of the

United States are committed to employing

the full resources of the Nation

to both respond and ensure that our adversaries

who undertook and/or aided

in the attacks of September 11, 2001,

will be held responsible and prevented

from future atrocities against America.

Passage of this bill tonight will signal

to these ruthless forces that the

United States is fully committed and

has done so without compromising our

Constitution, laws or ideals. While September

11, 2001, has caused great pain

and agony for the Nation, it has not

and will not defeat our resolve or our

commitment to freedom and democracy.

The fight may be long, it may be

tough and costly, but we will know

from tonight forward that it will be

right.