Mr. Speaker, I thank

the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support

of this joint resolution authorizing the

just use of force against those who

have attacked our Nation.

Our Constitution places the Congress

at the center of any decision to use

force over any extended period of time.

It is time for us to carefully weigh and

support this important decision.

It is long past due for armed action

against those who have barbarically attacked

our Nation. The individuals and

nations involved in this terrorism deserve

to feel the full wrath of our great

Nation, and I am confident they will

feel the wrath of the entire civilized

world. The American people will lead

that worldwide effort, united behind

our commander in chief.

Earlier today I had the honor, along

with my colleagues, to accompany

President Bush to my home city of

New York, witnessing firsthand the incredible

abominable destruction at the

World Trade Center. The President

movingly encouraged those workers

dedicated to rescuing the missing.

America is united behind our President,

behind our Armed Forces, and behind

all those who will join in our war

against terrorism. And our Nation will

not stand alone. We are all moved by

the many manifestations of solidarity

and sympathy that have come from

leaders throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, our people have borne

the deep pain and sorrow of this ruthless

attack. We are beginning our recovery;

and, by this legislation, for

which I urge support, we are ready to

defeat terrorism.

God bless America, and may God

bless the American people.