Madam Speaker, before

I returned to Washington last

week, I was skeptical of the President’s

proposal for military action in Syria.

After classified briefings and hearing

directly from Secretaries Kerry and

Hagel, I am more skeptical than ever.

This administration has done nothing

to convince me and the American

people that they have a focused, effective

plan for military action in Syria,

or really any true plan at all. These

strikes, like the administration’s Middle

East policy of the last 41⁄2 years,

lack coherence and fail to support a

long-term strategy.

Additionally, they have not adequately

considered the risk of retaliation

from Assad’s allies, Russia and

Hezbollah.

Madam Speaker, the test of a successful

foreign policy is that our

friends trust us and our enemies fear

us. President Obama has failed in this

regard, and a military strike will fail

to benefit the United States’ broader

strategy or international interests.