I thank the gentlewoman

for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition

to House Concurrent Resolution 51, although

I share my colleagues’ concerns

regarding our operations in Libya. In

fact, I sent a letter to the President 2

weeks ago, to which I have not received

a reply, making it clear that I would

have serious reservations regarding a

request for authorization of military

force in Libya.

Moreover, I support House Resolution

292, which we have also debated

here today. I do not believe the President

has adequately sought congressional

authorization, nor has he provided

sufficient information for Congress

to perform its constitutional

oversight.

Nevertheless, I cannot support the

resolution before us. This resolution

would require the President to remove

all U.S. forces within 15 days. Such a

short lead time offers our allies no

time to prepare for the withdrawal of

U.S. forces, and, make no mistake, the

hasty withdrawal of U.S. forces would

cripple allied operations and embolden

Qadhafi. The United States provides

adequate capabilities that our NATO

allies and other partners cannot provide,

either in kind or at all levels required.

We provide over 75 percent of all aerial

refueling; 70 percent of all intelligence,

surveillance, and reconnaissance;

nearly a quarter of all the aircraft,

including fighter aircraft, for

suppression of enemy air defenses;

armed Predators, providing aerial surveillance

and strike capability, including

low-level targeted strikes in urban

centers where Qadhafi’s forces have entrenched

themselves; and electronic

warfare aircraft for jamming and support

in targeting.

Reasonable people can disagree about

the extent to which involvement in

Libya was in our national strategic interest,

but having committed our

forces, a precipitous withdrawal would

certainly have implications for U.S.

national security and our strategic interests

around the world. We should

make certain allied efforts are not undermined

at the last minute.

As chairman of the Armed Services

Committee, I will continue to ensure

that the committee conducts robust

oversight of ongoing military operations,

and I will continue to press the

President for answers, but this resolution

is not the appropriate means to

bring about an end to the stalemate in

Libya.

I urge my colleagues to join me in

opposition.

I yield myself such

time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of

this resolution. I do not believe that

the President has provided adequate

justification for our military operations

in Libya nor why continued

intervention in a humanitarian stalemate

is in our national interest.

More than 2 weeks ago, I sent a letter

to the President outlining my concerns

regarding our strategy, our role within

NATO operations, and the escalating

costs of these operations at a time

when the administration is asking the

Department of Defense to make an additional

$400 billion in cuts. To date, I

have not received a reply.

Yet I believe that forcing the hasty

withdrawal of U.S. forces from NATO

operations in Libya would embolden

Qadhafi and gravely damage our credibility

with our allies. Consequently,

such a move could have dramatic, negative,

second-order effects on operations

that are critical to our national

security, such as operations in Afghanistan.

I believe Speaker BOEHNER’s resolution

addresses much of the frustration

shared by Members of this body. The

resolution reinforces provisions in the

recently passed National Defense Authorization

Act prohibiting the escalation

of U.S. participation without express

authorization from Congress.

This resolution requires the President

to clearly outline the strategic interests

that justify intervention in Libya,

to explain how the operational means

being employed will secure them. It requires

a prompt and transparent accounting

of costs as well as information

regarding the capacity and intentions

of the rebel forces. This information

is essential to allow Congress to

execute its constitutionally mandated

oversight role of military operations.

Again, I fully agree that the administration

has been disturbingly

dismissive of Congress’s role in the authorization

of military force. But I also

feel that passing this resolution is the

most effective way of holding the

President accountable without sacrificing

other vital national interests

that would be damaged by a precipitous

withdrawal from NATO operations.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance

of my time.