Madam Speaker, this week Congress will vote on an

emergency war spending conference report that fully funds the war and

our troops, and yet the President is still threatening a veto. The

President's problem with the bill is Congress' strong message that we

are not going to allow the war to go on indefinitely.

In years past, the President has dealt with Republican-controlled

Congresses, which simply rubber-stamped his requests, despite countless

mistakes in Iraq. Last November, the American people demanded a change.

Last month the Congress acted and brought a serious change to our

policy in Iraq. We demanded that the Iraqi Government meet the

political and economic benchmarks that the President himself outlined

earlier this year and set timelines for withdrawal if those benchmarks

are not met.

Defense Secretary Gates himself, last week, said that the timelines

we passed here in Congress and the pressure that our legislation exerts

on the Iraqi Government is having a positive impact. Our legislation is

already impacting the events in Iraq. The President should allow this

to continue by reconsidering his threat to veto the legislation.

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