Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of

H.J. Res. 73, To Redeploy U.S. Forces from Iraq. However, I must also

speak to and oppose the cynical resolution offered by Mr. Hunter. Mr.

Hunter's resolution calling for an immediate withdrawal from Iraq is a

political stunt and an outrageous politicization of a serious proposal

offered by Congressman Jack Murtha, a respected leader in the Congress.

Mr. Hunter's resolution shows great disrespect to someone of Mr.

Murtha's stature and is a discredit to his years of service.

From the beginning, this war has been conducted without oversight.

Democrats have repeatedly asked for substantive hearings on the war in

Iraq. In addition, we have requested investigations on the misuse of

intelligence by the Bush administration. War is too important of an

issue to politicize the lives of our soldiers. Despite Democrats

request for hearings on torture, contract fraud, and the leak of

confidential national security information.

It goes without saying that the war in Iraq is not going as

advertised. Our troops have become the primary target of the

insurgency. They are united against U.S. forces and we have become a

catalyst for violence. U.S. troops are the common enemy of the Sunnis,

Saddamists and foreign jihadists. I believe with U.S. troop

redeployment, the Iraq security forces will be incentivized to take

control. A poll recently conducted shows that over 80 percent of Iraqis

are strongly opposed to the presence of coalition troops, about 45

percent of the Iraqi population believe attacks against American troops

are justified. I believe we need to turn Iraq over to the Iraqis. I

believe before the Iraqi elections, scheduled for mid December, the

Iraqi people and the emerging government must be put on notice that the

United States will immediately redeploy. All of Iraq must know that

Iraq is free. Free from United States occupation. I believe this will

send a signal to the Sunnis to join the political process for the good

of a ``free'' Iraq.

The U.S. needs to vacate Iraq both to splinter the insurgent factions

that have united against us and to create incentives for the Iraqis to

take on their own security. Not surprising is the fact that the

American people have realized this for months. It is just now that some

Democrats and Republicans alike are beginning to express grave concerns

about the need for a course change in Iraq. With the administration so

unwilling to reconsider its disastrous policies in Iraq, it was only a

matter of time that Congress would begin to assert itself. Sadly, in

the past week the President and the Vice President have restored to

questioning people's patriotism to hide their own mistakes. The

administration has no idea as to how to proceed in Iraq and they are

wrong to use these ``McCarthy-type'' tactics.

I strongly support the Murtha Resolution. H.J. Res. 73 gives

Americans a moment to pause so we can seriously discuss the future of

America and our troops. This is what a democracy stands for. In

addition, H.J. Res 73 calls for the:

Immediate redeployment of U.S. troops consistent with the safety of

U.S. forces, creation of a quick reaction force in the region, creation

of an over-the-horizon presence of marines, diplomatic pursuit of

security and stability in Iraq.

Let me close by saying that the Republican cover-up Congress has

refused to exercise its oversight responsibilities to protect our

troops, the American taxpayers and our national security H. Res. 571 is

not a serious response to the serious question of saving the lives of

our soldiers. It is time to get serious and support Mr. Murtha's

proposal now for disengagement in Iraq.