Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution,

which is nothing more than an effort to politicize one of the most

serious policy issues facing the United States today. It is nothing

more than an effort to disguise--in a cloak of partisan rhetoric--the

fact that our Iraq policy is failing.

The facts are clear: Even as our brave men and women in uniform have

done their best,

the Administration has failed at every turn to execute the war in Iraq

competently. The President rushed to war based on false and faulty

intelligence against the protests of the vast majority of our allies.

Warnings from U.S. commanders about troop levels and equipment went

unheeded, haphazard decisions were made at the earliest stages which

seriously damaged our efforts to restore peace and security in Iraq.

Our troops have become targets of an ever-strengthening insurgency.

This Administration's horrendous judgment has put us in an untenable

situation--damaging our ability to deal with other emerging threats

around the world and threatening the stability of the Middle East.

The solution to Iraq's problems will be political in nature, not

military. The various factions in Iraq need to come together to decide

what shape the future of their country will take and to execute that

decision. Every diplomatic avenue must be pursued to engage the

international community in bringing stability and security to Iraq and

reconstructing critical infrastructure. We must assure the Iraqi people

that we do not intend to stay in Iraq indefinitely, and that we will

redeploy troops in a way that assures their safety and on a schedule

pegged to successes in security force training and other criteria.

Iraqi security forces must take control of their own country as soon as

they are able.

This redeployment must be carried out in a way that does not leave

Iraq as a playground for Iran, Syria, and al-Qaeda. It must be carried

out at the earliest possible time we are reasonably assured that the

conditions exist to ensure redeployment will leave U.S. interests in

the Middle East and around the world more, rather than less, secure.

Mr. Speaker, hasty decision-making is what got us into this mess in

the first place. The war in Iraq, and the men and women in uniform who

are fighting the war, deserve more than ad hoc, 11th-hour debates over

political power plays. I urge my colleagues to oppose the resolution.