Mr. Chairman, this month marks the third anniversary of

the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Our troops, who have performed heroically,

want to finish their mission and return home.

Success in Iraq depends on true power-sharing, and that will not

happen so long as Iraqis suspect that the United States will maintain

permanent military bases. That is why I strongly support the Lee

amendment, which will send a clear signal to the Iraqi people that the

United States does not seek a permanent presence.

Mr. Chairman, I have spoken to the President, the Vice President, the

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff about this. Statements by

Secretary Rumsfeld alone are not sufficient. Only when the President

makes clear that we intend to leave Iraq, not to referee a civil war,

will Iraqis realize that power-sharing is their best and last hope.

I thank my good friend, Congresswoman Lee, for introducing this

important amendment, and I thank her for her courageous stands all the

time in the House.