Mr. Chairman, I want to express my appreciation to the

gentlewoman from California for this amendment, which prevents funding

for permanent bases in Iraq, and also because it draws our attention to

other consequences.

One is the tragic occupation, which has been going on in Iraq now for

almost 3 years, and the consequences of that tragic occupation, which

has been endorsed and supported by this Congress over and over again.

It also draws our attention to the rationale for the invasion of Iraq

and the subsequent occupation, a rationale which was presented to this

Congress and to the American people in the most fraudulent and

deceitful way.

It draws attention to the fact that it is a criminal violation of

Federal law to present false and misleading information to the Congress

in order to get them to take action. Most importantly, it draws our

attention to the fact that the Congress has done nothing about it. We

are now facing the third anniversary of the invasion and subsequent

occupation of Iraq, and we must face the fact that this Congress has

failed in its obligations and responsibilities to oversee the executive

branch.