Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

You know, I think we must be debating two different resolutions here

today. I just heard my colleague from across the aisle talk about a new

plan. Of course, I guess that fits in with the smoke-and-mirror 110th

Congress about a new plan. Well, if you don't want to increase the

troop size, which the undemocratic majority evidently does not want to

do with this resolution, and you don't want to stop the funding, then

what do you want to do? You want to stay the course. I think the

American people said in the election, we don't want to stay the course.

I think that our military leaders, we hear this resolution when the

other side talks about it, they talk about supporting our troops. And I

am sure General Petraeus is confused to get approved unanimously in the

Senate and hear this resolution about supporting our troops and yet we

don't want to follow what he has said we need to do. General Casey

agrees with this and he has been confirmed to a new position. And so

how can we tell our men and women in the field that, Hey, look, we

support you, but don't listen to what your commanders have to say.

We've got something different. We're going to micromanage the war from

Washington.

A lot of the people that are going to be voting on this resolution

have never been to Iraq. They have never been to Afghanistan. They have

never seen some of the situations that our young men and women are put

in for freedom-loving people all over this world. I don't know how they

could actually vote on it if they have never been, but I guess they

will. Because they are trying to paint a picture of having your cake

and eating it, too. We support our troops but, look, we don't want to

change our way of what we're doing. We don't want to try to help you

with more troops, to try to help you save your life over there and

securing these areas that you risked your life in going in to take,

knock the enemy out, and then have to leave and let the enemy come back

in and be even stronger. What kind of message does that send?

This is not about President Bush, because I think President Bush has

tried every way, Mr. Speaker, he knows how to make this a successful

campaign in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he continues to come up with new

ideas through the help and the advice of his military commanders to win

this war on terror. This is a global war on terror. Some people from

the other side seem to believe that if we pull out of Iraq that the

Iraqi people are going to go back to tending sheep and herding goats.

That is not what is going to happen. If we pull out of Iraq, what is

going to happen is you are going to see more bloodshed than we have

seen in a long time in this world, and it is going to be the innocent

Iraqi people who stuck their finger in that purple ink and went and

voted for the first time in their life that are going to be the ones to

suffer, the ones that said, we believe in freedom, we believe in

governing ourselves, we support the coalition forces here because we

believe that they're coming to free us from this tyrant that we have

been under. Those are the ones that are going to die. Those are the

ones that are going to suffer the most. Those are the Iraqis that are

losing their lives today because they want freedom.

Our men and women in uniform, those blessed souls that are in Iraq

and Afghanistan and are losing their lives, they volunteered to put

their lives in harm's way not only to protect our freedom in this

country, not only to protect this Republic that we have but to spread

freedom and democracy all across the world to every human being that

loves freedom and liberty. These brave men and women need our support.

They need our encouragement. But what they don't need is a smoke-and-

mirror resolution that is done for political reasons and because of

political promises made on a campaign trail. They don't need that. They

need real encouragement and support from this Congress. Let's do

something to give them that and not do things that strengthens the

enemy, discourages our troops and really and truly, I believe, goes

against the Constitution. When we all took the oath of office, we made

an oath to the Constitution, not to anybody else. Let's uphold that.

Let's respect our Commander in Chief and the generals in the field.