Madam Speaker, this week the House will have

an opportunity to truly support our troops by having a substantial

debate here on the House floor about the President's latest proposal

for a troop escalation in Iraq. Some of my Republican colleagues will

say that such a debate undermines our troops' efforts in Iraq. Nothing

could be further from the truth.

How can this Congress stand on the sidelines when the President has

been told by his generals, by an independent commission created by the

old Republican Congress, by the American people, and by both Democrats

and Republicans in the new Congress that this plan will not work? How

can this Congress stand on the sidelines while our troops continue to

serve as referees in a situation that even our own intelligence

agencies say is worse than a civil war?

Madam Speaker, the resolution we will begin to debate today has the

well-being of our troops first. First and foremost, we support them. We

support them by saying enough is enough with the bad planning. The

President should not send more troops to Iraq for the simple reason

that it will not make any difference on a deteriorating situation on

the ground.