Mr. Speaker, it is time to send a message to

the Bush administration that change is needed in Iraq. Mr. Speaker, the

resolution we are debating this week here on the House floor is the

first step in this new Congress' efforts to take Iraq in a new

direction.

Last November the American people were clear that they wanted a

dramatic change in Iraq. The President's troop escalation plan is not

what they were asking for. This week this House will emphatically voice

its opposition to the President's plan. We hope that this serves as a

wake-up call and sends the ``Decider'' a message that he can no longer

walk over Congress. We are not going to rubber-stamp his plans any

more.

This week's debate is only the beginning, Mr. Speaker. House and

Senate committees have already conducted 52 hearings on Iraq. That is

what the Congress is supposed to do, provide real oversight on the

administration. Unfortunately for the first 3 years of this war,

congressional Republicans rubber-stamped the Decider's Iraq plan.

Those days are over. Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to find a new

course in Iraq, and a military solution is now out of the question. And

that is why this troop escalation plan should be defeated.