Mr. Speaker, this is a historic week in Iraq. They have

passed a new budget for 2007, an overwhelming majority of the Iraq

Council of Representatives voted in favor of the $41.1 billion budget

that will aid Iraq with rebuilding, security, and move them forward to

be more self-sufficient.

We should celebrate this achievement as evidence that we are making

progress in Iraq, and we should allow the new strategy a chance to

work. The 2007 Iraq budget represents a 21 percent increase over the

2006 budget. Over $10 billion will be dedicated to reconstruction

efforts and capital investment projects this year, and over $7 billion

will be used to provide security to protect Iraq from insurgents that

continue to work against the cause of freedom.

This is great news from Iraq. We are making progress. I applaud the

dedication to fiscal responsibility in Iraq and urge my colleagues to

celebrate the success stories like this one in Iraq.