Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of our

troops fighting in Iraq and the plan put forth by General Petraeus to

win this war.

Democrat Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he believes the war

is lost and the surge is failing. What a terrible message for our

troops fighting this very minute. Instead of a road map to success, we

are being asked to support a plan for defeat. We are being asked to

announce to our enemies a date for surrender. Do we think the

terrorists will lay down their weapons and go their merry way if we

leave? History reminds us otherwise. When the Soviet Union left

Afghanistan in the 1980s, the radical Islamists did not lay down their

weapons; in fact, they demolished the Afghani Government and took

power.

So what can we expect when we announce today that we are closing,

that we are losing, and announce tomorrow that we will leave? Al Qaeda

leaders have publicly declared their mission is to expel the Americans

from Iraq and establish an Islamic emirate in Iraq. So we have taken

them at their word with this surge and showed a new determination to

win. In the seven weeks since the surge began, the number of weapon

stockpiles we have found has doubled. More tips are coming in from

Iraqis who want peace and stability to take hold of their country.

Sunni leaders are turning against al Qaeda and Iraqi troops are

standing up. Just yesterday, the Iraqi troops took charge of security

in the southern province of My Soon, the fourth province to come under

full Iraqi security patrol.

General Petraeus is coming next week to brief the Congress on our

progress. How are we going to greet this brave general, good morning,

General Petraeus, we've decided to run the war? What we need to do as

responsible Members of Congress is to exercise our oversight, fund and

support our troops, ensure that we give them what they need as they

fight for our freedom, what they and their families need as they

return, and give this plan a chance, paying close attention to its

progress.

There is too much at stake in Iraq for responsible leaders to

advocate allowing the region to spiral into chaos, and we can't ignore

the threat of failure for our country and our citizens.