Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation

because where continuity is merited, we have continuity, and where

change is demanded, we have change.

The continuity comes from the fact of a bipartisan consensus to

provide every dollar that our troops in the field need, and this bill

does that. That will not change. What must change, though, is the

abrogation of constitutional responsibility by the erstwhile majority.

For over 3\1/2\ years, the erstwhile majority, Mr. Speaker,

vacillated between apology and inaction. Yes, the President is the

Commander in Chief, but no President should be the sole source of law

and judgment. And for nearly 4 years, the erstwhile majority sat

silently by as the quagmire deepened. That is changing under this

legislation.

What also must change is the policy itself. We have been asked what

our plan was. Here it is. We say to the Iraqis, you promised to pass an

oil law. Pass it. You promised to have local elections. Have those

elections. You promised to stand up your own security and police

forces. Put them into the fight. If you succeed, we will then stay for

an 18-month period of time to facilitate your success, but if you fail,

the days of the blank check and the endless commitment are over.

The erstwhile majority, Mr. Speaker, has a hard time recognizing this

plan because they have no plan. Their only approach is to ratify the

failure of the status quo. The troops in the field and the American

people deserve much, much better, and that is what this legislation

provides.

I urge a ``yes'' vote.