Mr. Speaker, even for those convinced the surge in Iraq

is a mistake, the manner in which we implement a decision to leave that

country is critical to our Nation. Therefore, any Congress mandating a

new security policy through force of law owes a careful explanation to

the country why and how it is to be done, including dealing with what

would occur in the aftermath.

However much Americans may agree with us a desire to reduce U.S.

forces and withdraw them from Iraq quickly, this Nation must face the

alternative of what will happen in the region once that redeployment is

done by a force of law.

We must remember it took us approximately 6 months to withdraw a

small number of troops just from Somalia. We have 160,000 troops in

Iraq and over 100,000 contractors, but the time line of about a year

that is needed for a safe redeployment also works well to protect our

regional interests in a strategic approach to end this war. It provides

the time needed for a strategy of regional accommodation to take effect

with Iran, Syria and Saudi Arabia,

a strategy that rightly relies upon the long-term interests in a stable

aftermath. Therefore, ending this war is necessary but insufficient.

How we end it and by what means is even of greater importance for our

troops' safety and our own security.