Mr. Speaker, the war in Iraq is in its fifth year, but the

Bush administration still refuses to develop a realistic, strategic

plan for the Middle East and Iraq.

The Iraq War has destabilized the region, and the United States must

reassert and protect its fundamental national security interests by

actively taking the necessary steps to stabilize the Middle East.

Today Congress will debate a plan which stands in stark contrast to

the delusional policies of the Bush administration which have sapped

our military readiness, strengthened al Qaeda, wasted our resources and

betrayed the trust of the American people.

There is a way forward, and we must be bold, courageous and

strategic. Without leadership in the White House, we must continue to

exercise leadership in the people's House. And I assure the American

people that we will.