Mr. Speaker, we need a surge of congressional action to

stop George Bush's disastrous policy in Iraq. The country needs and is

desperate for a change in policy in Iraq, and tonight President George

Bush will continue his policy of failure, of giving us just more of the

same.

It is clear that we need to insist on a political solution in Iraq

rather than to insist on Americans continuing to pour billions of

dollars and thousands of lives into this political chaos in Iraq. The

President has refused to listen to the bipartisan panel calling for a

change in Iraq. He has refused to listen to the American people. But he

cannot refuse to listen to a Congress that fulfills its obligation

under the Constitution to exercise the power of the purse to stop this

misguided escalation.

The U.S. House should vote in clear and no uncertain terms to fund

the troops that are there and to cut off funding for any escalation. It

is our constitutional obligation. It is a commonsense policy to insist

on Iraqis standing up. That is the direction and the change we need in

this country.