Mr. Speaker, the administration is preparing to

escalate the conflict. They intend to increase troop numbers to

unprecedented levels, without establishing an ending date. It is

important for Congress to oppose the troop surge. But that is not

enough. We must respond powerfully to take steps to end the occupation,

close U.S. bases in Iraq and bring our troops home. These steps are

necessary preconditions to the U.S. extricating itself from Iraq

through the establishment of an international security and peacekeeping

force.

That is what the Kucinich plan which I am presenting Members of

Congress today is all about. Congress as a co-equal branch of

government has an urgent responsibility here. Congress under article I,

section 8, has the war-making power. Congress appropriates funds for

the war. Congress does not dispense with its obligation to the American

people simply by opposing a troop surge in Iraq. It is simply not

credible to maintain that one opposes the war and yet continues to fund

it. If you oppose the war, then don't vote to fund it.