Mr. Speaker, this weekend, General David Petraeus

acknowledged that we will not see any significant improvements in the

situation on the ground in Iraq by September.

When President Bush first proposed the troop escalation plan at the

beginning of this year, he said we should know if it's actually working

by the beginning of the summer. A couple of months later, when the

troops were actually on the ground, the President revised that time

frame, saying that we should have a good grasp if the plan is working

by September.

Now we have confirmation from the President's top general on the

ground that positive signs in Iraq will continue to be elusive.

The question now is, will the administration do as it has in the past

and change the deadline?

Moving deadlines are simply no longer acceptable. President Bush has

been promising for months that we would see significant changes come

September, and since that is no longer possible, a significant change

in direction is needed in Iraq.

It is time for the President and the congressional Republicans to

realize that Petraeus is now admitting that no improvements will be

seen by September.