Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the most important political

and moral issue of the day, the war in Iraq. The war in Iraq costs us

dearly in lives, more than 3,000 Americans so far, in dollars, 471

billion by my count; in international prestige by compromising our

ability to meet our other foreign policy goals.

President Bush has rejected the sensible recommendations of the Iraq

Study Group and instead chosen an escalation of troops. Rather than

sending more brave young Americans to fight in an undefined, impossible

mission in an Iraqi civil war, we should be looking for ways to

redeploy our troops responsibly.

Representative Murtha has courageously offered a framework for that

redeployment, and the administration would be wise to heed his advice.

The American people want to bring home their loved ones who are in

harm's way. The Iraqi people want us to leave so that Iraqis can solve

their problems.

As former Secretary of State Albright has pointed out, the only ones

who want us to stay are those who will leave Iraq when we leave.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should reject the President's last ditch effort

to salvage a botched execution of a flawed strategy.