Madam Speaker, today with my colleague and

friend, Representative Joe Schwarz of Michigan, I will introduce a

bipartisan resolution that can be the basis for consensus about future

military involvement in Iraq.

Our resolution recognizes progress in Iraq, including the

establishment of a national unity government last week. But it also

recognizes the need for more progress. In particular, it urges the Bush

Administration to tell the new Iraqi government that they must seize

this opportunity to complete the formation of their new government and

agree to modifications in their own constitution.

We need to let the Iraqi government know this is no time for

complacency. Iraqi leaders must seize this opportunity to complete the

political process which could build trust and legitimacy in the new

government and reduce insurgent-led violence and sectarian strife.

Only the Iraqis can unify their country and achieve a lasting peace.

Our resolution makes it clear to both the people of Iraq and the

American people, the presence of U.S. military forces is linked to

Iraqi political achievements and the deadlines the Iraqis have set for

themselves in their constitution need to be met.

I urge the support of my colleagues on this important bipartisan

resolution.