Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank President Bush for

declassifying key judgments from the National Intelligence Estimate so

the American people can understand the absolute critical importance of

our war on terror, and why the bills we are debating this week, from

defense appropriations to military commissions, are essential to

keeping America safe and our homeland secure.

Mr. Speaker, despite what my colleagues on the other side of the

aisle might claim, American is not responsible for the rise of

terrorism. We did not bring this war on the terrorists. They brought

this upon themselves when they attacked freedom and our way of life in

Kenya, Tanzania, aboard the USS Cole, New York City, Pennsylvania, and

right here in Washington, D.C. on September 11.

America has a winning strategy of relentlessly hunting down those who

wish us harm, and working to defeat terrorism by encouraging democracy

in the Middle East. If the terrorists are emboldened by the spread of

this newfound freedom, it is because they know that free people will

terminate the terrorist way of life.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely incumbent upon us and this body to give

President Bush, our CIA, and our military the tools they need to

prevent future attacks on our Nation.

I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will join me this

week in voting to protect the American people.