I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, let me say that the distinguished deputy leader on the

other side said that if the Cochran amendment passes, it will be the

same strategy, nothing new, nothing changed.

Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the President heard

what the people said in the elections of last year. The President has

changed the policy. We have confirmed a general to go over there and

direct a new strategy, which, by all accounts, is beginning to have

some hope of success.

If we do what is in this bill, by not passing the Cochran amendment,

it says that the President must commence the phased redeployment of

U.S. forces from Iraq not later than 120 days after the date of this

act. That puts a bulls-eye on our troops on the ground. It says we are

not committed to do what we said we would do, to stand with Iraq to

have a stable democracy in their country. It says that we are just

going to leave.

We are not stating any benchmarks; we are not stating any success

strategies; we are saying 120 days and we are gone. What do you think

that does to our troops on the ground? What does it say to our allies?

Most importantly, what does it say to the enemy? It says the greatest

country in the world is going to be there as long as it is not very

hard. But when it gets too tough for America, we will leave and we will

walk out.

That should not be the message of the greatest country on Earth, and

I hope we will pass the Cochran amendment and do what is right for our

country for the long term.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.