Mr. Speaker, by refusing to take responsibility for their

failed policy in Iraq, the Bush administration has effectively forced

Congress to intervene to bring it to a responsible end.

Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Obey, Majority Whip Clyburn, Chairman Murtha

and the Democratic leadership do deserve credit for recognizing this

and for doing something that the Republican Congress refused to do over

the last 4 years, namely, that is to confront the Bush administration

over their failed policy and to commit to bring that policy to an end

in Iraq.

But that is a very important step. However, for some of us the

question of voting for funds to continue this war with strings attached

and no real enforcement really does keep our troops in harm's way. I am

disappointed we will not have the opportunity to vote on the Lee-

Woolsey-Waters-Watson amendment which would fully fund the safe

withdrawal of U.S. troops and contractors by December 31, 2007.

The American people want this, and I will continue to push to fully

fund the safe withdrawal of our troops from Iraq and for timelines for

withdrawal that are backed up, mind you, backed up by the

appropriations power, and that is the power of the purse which the

Constitution grants to the Congress. Too many lives have been lost, too

many lives have been shattered.