Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this

irresponsible spending bill.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to our brave service men and women who are

fighting for freedom and democracy in Iraq to make sure that they are

the best equipped and most successful troops in the world. While the

Democrats would have you believe that this legislation does just that,

it couldn't be further from the truth.

This supplemental is a prescription for defeat in Iraq by tying the

hands of our military leaders and setting a date certain for

withdrawing our troops. If we fail in Iraq, the resources now devoted

by terrorist organizations and nations sponsoring terrorism there would

be turned to spreading terror around the globe, including, again, on

American soil.

It is through the hard work and sacrifice of our American troops that

the ideals of freedom continue to be spread. We owe them the resources

they need to complete their mission, but this bill does not meet that

threshold.

Mr. Speaker, I am also alarmed that the Democrats are treating a

wartime, let me repeat, wartime funding bill as a collection cup for

pet projects.

Many Members have already mentioned the litany of pet projects in the

bill, so I do not need to repeat these so-called domestic emergency

spending provisions. I would like to mention, though, how ridiculous

this bill must seem to troops and their families listening or watching

us on C-SPAN.

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure how I will respond when asked by

constituents why funding for some $15 billion in pet projects is

necessary when attempting to fund the global war on terror.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that some of these extraneous provisions

may be worth examining, but how would we know? We did not hold

oversight hearings on these issues and have, therefore, abdicated our

responsibility to the taxpayer. If there is a problem, I am sure we can

make the necessary fixes in regular order.

I urge my colleagues to vote down this legislation and fund our

troops with a clean supplemental bill.