Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, the fine chairman of

our Appropriations Committee, and say he would know that because he

also is featured in the same magazine.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this first counteroffensive

to the Bush administration's reckless approach to the global war on

terrorism that has yielded an Iraqi civil war, over 3,200 U.S. dead,

nearly 25,000 injuries, the evaporation of the coalition of the

willing, tens of thousands of dead Iraqis, growing terrorism, hatred of

America across the Islamic world, and shock and dismay among America's

closest democratic allies globally.

The Bush administration has no answers. In fact, their budgets for

this war reveal how lost at sea they are. Every single year they have

asked for more in emergency add-ons than they planned to spend in the

base budget bill itself.

Yet our brave troops fight on to hold the military edge. And this

bill helps us fight harder for them by not asking them to bear the full

burden of this war, because it sets a timetable for progress and

requires the President to meet benchmarks he, himself, has set.

Our vote today funds our troops but, importantly, signals that

victory means one-third military and two-thirds diplomacy and good

governance and sets a timetable to get there, not

just militarily, but strategically and diplomatically.

If they knew what they were doing, these expenditures would have been

built into the base budget, not afterthoughts. Look how out of touch

they are with what was required: FY 2001 (Emergency Supplemental);

$13.9 billion; FY 2002 (Supplemental): $3.4 billion; FY 2002

(Supplemental): $14.1 billion; FY 2003 (Supplemental): $66.0 billion;

FY 2004 (Supplemental): $86.1 billion; FY 2005 (Supplemental): $79.0

billion; FY 2006 (Supp): $69.3 billion.

Additionally, there is the critical money appropriated by Congress

that the Administration did not even think to ask for: FY 2005 Defense

Appropriations Act: $25.7 billion; FY 2006 Defense Appropriations Act:

$50 billion; FY 2007 Defense Appropriations Act: $70 billion.

Despite Congress voting all the funding that was requested, and even

adding some additional where necessary, how is that our soldiers across

the theatre don't have the right equipment? Just today, I received a

call from an uncle of a Marine about to be deployed to Anbar Province:

Our vote today funds our troops. But importantly signals that victory

means 1/3 military and 2/3 diplomacy and good governance and sets a

timetable to get there, not just militarily but strategically and

diplomatically.

It falls to the Democrats to pick up the pieces of a failed foreign

policy. And that is exactly what we are doing with this vote. No one

here is operating under the illusion that we are presented with good

choices. Importantly, this vote funds the troops we have in theatre.

Although this bill holds the hope of redeploying our troops more

effectively no later than a year from now, it continues to impose

almost the entire burden of the mission in Iraq on our military.

Meanwhile, U.S. policy is exacerbating terrorism and begetting violence

that could spill over into Jordan, Turkey, Bahrain, Kuwait, Pakistan,

Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia--all while the Afghan war is becoming more

challenging.

Whatever happened to the coalition of the willing?

Where are the neighbors of Iraq?

Where are the diplomats to address the Israel-Palestinian standoff?

In Egypt, 70 percent of the public unfavorably views the United

States. In Jordan, U.S. favorability has fallen to 15 percent. In Saudi

Arabia, from where the majority--9-11 terrorists emerged, the U.S. is

disliked by 76 percent of it citizens. Gallup polls tell us why:

America is viewed as not on the side of rising popular expectations for

a more democratic way of life. The United States is viewed as a

promiscuous culture in moral decay. Abu Ghraib affirmed them in their

views.

Granted, no single vote here will quickly repair the damage to our

nation's prestige, mend the broken hearts, or put back together the

broken lives of thousands of American and Iraqi families.

No single vote will invigorate Iraq's neighbors to promote regional

stability.

No single vote will win the war on terrorism.

No single vote will free America from her dangerous dependency on

imported oil from dictatorships.

America faces a strategic challenge much larger than Iraq. It

requires aligning America on the side of democratic dreams of

underprivileged people, not just the super-rich, in the vast

undemocratic places where terrorists are being spawned. The Bush

Administration's proclivity to support the aristocrats of the world at

the expense of everyone else is raining havoc down on our world as Big

Oil lines up to pump out Iraq's oil--Exxon Mobil, Conoco Phillips,

Chevron Texaco, even foreign companies as Total, Royal Dutch Shell, and

BP.

I am not entirely comfortable with this vote.

I imagine no Member is entirely comfortable with spending another

$100 billion, on top of $379 billion, on the war in Iraq, a war that

has now lasted longer than World Wars I and II combined.

In my congressional district in Northern Ohio, communities are

struggling to revive an unresponsive economy. Families are having

trouble making ends meet.

In Ohio, we desperately need new roads and bridges and sewers. We

need health care and education. But the Bush Administration is obsessed

with Iraq. Billions of dollars for Iraq--pennies for Ohio. We are

shortchanging our citizens and our children in the name of a failed

policy.

This vote, however, marks the beginning of the end of the Bush

Administration's colossal foreign policy debacle.

Our vote today will ensure a beginning to an end of this failed

foreign policy that decouples our military from a failed foreign

policy, of the immense drain on our purse, an end to the injuries to,

and deaths of, our brave soldiers. And an end to the growing disrespect

of our great country in every corner of the world.

I have opposed this war from the beginning. I said on this same floor

in October 2002 that war against Iraq ``will not make America safer,

because unilateral military action without broad international support

will isolate America further. It will thrust us into the position of

becoming a common enemy in a volatile region where anti-western

terrorism grows with each passing year. It will not make the region

more stable either. The Bush approach will yield more terrorism and

instability, not less.''

How I wish that I could say I was wrong in 2002.

But what I feared most has come to pass.

In December 2005, General Abizaid said: ``The battle against Al Qaeda

will not be primarily military. It will be political, economic and

ideological. If you look at the geography of Al Qaeda, there is not a

place to put a military solution.''

Since returning from Iraq, I have repeated what Generals Petraeus and

Odierno said to us: ``Victory is one-third military, two-thirds

diplomacy and good governance.'' America has focused all of our efforts

on our military campaign, while the Commander-in-Chief has failed to

support our soldiers with diplomatic and political efforts to wrap

around their operations. Instead, these valiant men and women fall

victim to a Commander-In-Chief who has not only bungled the war on

terrorism, but utterly failed in his role as Diplomat-In-Chief for our

nation. He is isolating America. Why should our soldiers bear the heavy

burden of winning when the good governance piece is completely absent?

President Bush refuses to listen, refuses to change course. His

obstinate attitude is shocking.

I am voting for this supplemental precisely because it turns up the

pressure on President Bush and forces him to account for his disastrous

strategy. The status quo is not an option.

This war must end. Although this emergency supplemental spending bill

is not a perfect solution to this vast problem, the legislation points

the way to a long-overdue course correction.

It is important to note: it does so without endangering the

courageous and patriotic soldiers serving us in the Middle East. It is

an exquisite response to the false choices the Bush Administration

specializes in offering to us.