Mr. Speaker, as a founding and active member of the

Out of Iraq Caucus, someone who identifies closely with the peace

movement and a ``no'' vote on the war itself, I rise in support of this

measure because for the first time we have a date certain for the war

to end, a date when U.S. combat troops must be out of Iraq.

It is not the bill I would have written, but it moves us closer to

the goal, as clearly stated by Speaker Pelosi, of ending the war in

Iraq.

Like many progressives, I have consistently voted against funding for

this war. We have withstood Republican critics who say we are hurting

the troops, because we know the way to care for them is to get them out

of the meat grinder that is Iraq.

This vote draws a clear line between those who want to stay

indefinitely in an unwinnable war and those of us who, along with the

majority of Americans, want to end it. After 4 horrifying years of war,

finally the issue before us now is when, not if, we will leave Iraq.

We aren't going to end the war with any one vote, but this vote

should be the beginning of the end of this tragic chapter in our

history. It will have my support.