Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for

yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that this is an extraordinary moment in

American history. Indeed, I would suggest that this is an unprecedented

moment in world history.

I know of no example in the history of mankind where a Nation at war

with troops in the field has announced that on a date certain almost 2

years off it will simply unilaterally stop the war. I don't believe

that has ever happened before in human history, and I believe it is a

stunning moment.

What I do not understand is how you can explain that or defend that

to either the soldiers you are asking to fight for the next year and a

half or to their families. And I am not the only one who finds this to

be a strange policy, a dangerous policy, a risky policy, an ill-advised

policy.

The Los Angeles Times wrote just a few weeks ago, ``It is one thing

for the House to pass a nonbinding vote of disapproval. It is quite

another,'' they said, ``for it to set out a detailed timeline.'' It

then went on and said, ``This is the worst kind of congressional

meddling in military strategy.'' Those are the words of the Los Angeles

Times.

Then let's look at another source. In 2005, now majority leader of

the U.S. Senate Harry Reid said, ``As far as setting a timeline, that

is not a wise decision, because it only empowers those who don't want

us there.''

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relation Committee, Joe Biden,

said a deadline for pulling out ``will only encourage our enemies.''

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton said, ``I don't believe it is smart to

set a deadline for withdrawal.''

This is a policy that makes no sense, and this is a policy that can

do nothing but harm our troops and our Nation.