Mr. Speaker, I rise today with regret to express my

opposition to this supplemental appropriations bill. I oppose this bill

because rather than the bill before us, we need a bill that cleanly has

as its objective providing support for our troops, not a bill that is

saddled with all kinds of extraneous programs, programs that should

stand on their own merits, not be used to gain support. We need a bill

that will have as its goal stability in Iraq, that will enable the

Iraqi people to take responsibility for the future of their country.

The Iraq Study Group report has one recommendation that summarized

the need for a clean supplemental that will provide the funds necessary

to achieve the goals we all want for the future of our forces in this

conflict, and I quote from this report: ``If the Iraqi Government

demonstrates political will and makes substantial progress towards the

achievement of milestones on national reconciliation, security and

governance, the United States should make clear its willingness to

continue training, assistance and support for Iraq's security forces

and to continue political, military and economic support for the Iraq

Government.'' And this is important: ``As Iraq becomes more capable of

governing, defending and sustaining itself, the U.S. military and

civilian presence in Iraq can be reduced.''

That is really what the goal of this supplemental is. I think it is

vitally important that we have a clean bill that makes clear our goal

of success in Iraq, that will reflect honorably on the sacrifices that

have been made by the Armed Forces of our Nation, that is part of

securing for the people of our

country freedom from terrorist threats.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this collection of unrelated

expenditures. Vote instead for a clean bill to support our troops.