Thank you, Mr. Lantos.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush stubbornly refuses to end the war in

Iraq. It is up to Congress to step forward and mandate that our troops

return home. Congress must deliver to the American people what they

voted for in November. It is Congress that must end this disastrous

war. At long last, this legislation delivers a responsible withdrawal

of American troops.

The stark reality is that the President's escalation strategy has

been an utter failure. Instead of a successful surge, the President's

policy in Iraq has regressed, and the death toll of American troops and

Iraqi civilians has mounted.

This President is unwilling to change course, despite overwhelming

American opposition to the war, despite failing to meet political,

economic and security benchmarks, and despite calls by Senate

Republicans urging a change in course. The President is in denial, and

it is time for Congress to deliver a reality check.

Our troops have sacrificed enough. Our military families have

suffered enough. American taxpayers have spent enough. Congress must

bring our troops home, and this bill does it.