Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the

Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act, H.R. 2956, and for the safe

redeployment of our combat troops out of Iraq.

I thank our Chairman Lantos of the Foreign Affairs Committee for

yielding time to me and want to reiterate that for 4 years now our

administration has sacrificed its many soldiers for an Iraqi Government

that has failed to take responsibility for its own security. While many

of these soldiers have made great sacrifices on our Nation's behalf,

the President has failed to support them with a viable strategy to

succeed in Iraq and then to end combat operations.

This bill would force the President to be accountable to this

Congress and to the American people. Yes, the American people deserve

to know how this war is conducted and how it will end.

This bill would force the Iraqi Government to realize that America's

commitment to their nation is not open-ended and that they must be

accountable to their people for security and stability.

This bill would allow our military to safely redeploy from combat in

Iraq to better confront emerging security threats around the world.

This bill would end the drain upon our Nation's resources that could

better be used on our priorities at home such as improving our homeland

security, strengthening our economy, and for providing for our

citizens.

I strongly support this important legislation and request the

President heed the call of this Congress to support our troops by

redeploying them out of Iraq.