Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of

this resolution. The responsible redeployment of our troops is a brave

step toward a new direction for the war in Iraq. It will remove our

troops from the most dangerous kill zones in Iraq and refocus our

efforts toward defeating terrorism across the globe.

The decision to redeploy is one that I have not come to lightly. This

bill gives the President the power to maintain a military presence in

the region while, at the same time, imposing the accountability the

American people demand that we enforce.

Four years into a difficult and prolonged engagement, I had hoped we

would have seen better proposals for progress in quelling the violence.

Throughout the course of our debate, whether on the air waves, Internet

or in the halls of Congress, we've heard much of the supposed failures

of our military goals. We hear often of continued strife and

instability in the nation we sought to set free; of an Iraqi economy

crippled by the trials of war; of parliamentary disputes, civil unrest

and sectarian violence; and of a peace we all believe in that has yet

to take place in Iraq.

But these stories, however true, are only a portion of our efforts.

They are the darkest side of our endeavors meant to do good and

sinfully omit the triumphs and victories of our sons and daughters

who've done a great service.

For all that remains undone, our troops have accomplished a great

deal. We brought free and open elections to a nation once shackled by a

tyrannical regime. Iraq has experienced freedoms unimagined before, and

Saddam Hussein was put to death for his crimes.

It is in this vein that we must continue our presence in Iraq and

Afghanistan, the greater Middle East and around the world, for it is

essential to our security.

As we prepare to redeploy our troops from Iraq, we must commit as

well to remain ever vigilant in the face of terrorism. Whether they are

threats to America and her allies, whether radicalism threatens the

foundations of the natural freedoms we've sought so hard to prove, we

must prepare ourselves to face those threats and bring their agents

either to justice or a swift demise.

We must continue our hunt for Osama Bin Laden and the instruments of

al Qaeda. While I am behind the efforts to redeploy, our military must

be equipped and prepared to protect American civilians, property and

interests at home and abroad.

As I prepared my case today on the merits of redeployment, I was

reminded of a speech delivered by Congressman Abraham Lincoln on

January 12, 1848, that railed against President James K. Polk of

Tennessee for bringing our country to war with Mexico. Lincoln believed

that Polk had stretched the facts to fit the case for war, just as many

have expressed their belief here that our President stretched the truth

about WMDs to make his case for war.

President Polk's war with Mexico yielded the borders that stand

today. Our nations endured the battle of Vera Cruz, the battle of

Mexico City, but the results of the Mexican-American war remain, and

our two countries live as partners in peace. The results of the war

yielded positive results. History has favorably judged James K. Polk,

just as history will judge this President.

So as the President considers signing the order to redeploy, I hope

he will. I implore him to consider the advice of Mr. Lincoln.