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

Redeployment from Iraq Act.

On January 10, President Bush announced an increase of more than

20,000 troops in Iraq. Six months later, it is clear that the

President's surge strategy has yielded no positive results, and Iraq

continues to remain a battleground for sectarian violence and a hotbed

for terrorist activity.

But in spite of the realities on the ground, the President seems

intent on further digging in his heels on a failed policy that has

placed targets on the backs of our troops as they attempt to referee a

civil war. In the 6 months that I have served in Congress, the 17th

Congressional District of Illinois has mourned the lives of six brave

soldiers. In the absence of any visible progress, we can no longer

stand by as more of our troops come home in body bags.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush started this war without a plan to win

the peace. For the sake of our troops, our national security and our

credibility around the world, this Congress must do what this President

refuses to do in order to return stability to Iraq. I urge my

colleagues to support this bill.