Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my good

friend from the Garden State.

It is interesting, Mr. Speaker, and I will point to this L.A. Times

editorial since now the L.A. Times is an authority on this issue. The

newspaper said it reluctantly endorsed the U.S. troop surge when it

began. But at the bottom it says: ``We feel that the time has come now

for us to leave Iraq.'' That is the L.A. Times.

I also want to point out another thing as we talk about this

redeployment, a responsible redeployment, the act that is up before the

House right now that we are considering. I just want to make sure the

Members of the House know exactly what they are doing, because when

they get back home in their districts and they start talking to the

heroes and heroes that have been deployed two to three times and talk

to Americans about why they can't meet the needs that they have to meet

here domestically, I want them to reflect on this:

I want them to look at the fact that you have $120 billion a year

that we are spending in Iraq; per month, $10 billion; per week, $2.3

billion; per day, $329 million; per hour, $13 million since we have

been here on the floor, Mr. Speaker; per minute, which I only have two,

$228,000. And you have to look at per second, as I take a breath,

$3,816.

Also, I want to point out to the Members here, Mr. Speaker, the last

time we passed a measure on behalf of the men and women in harm's way

and to send the message to the Iraqi Government, they can go on

vacation and they don't meet and they don't do the things that we have

put forth as benchmarks that they have to meet in a bipartisan way,

then why should we reward bad behavior?

And I have this picture here, Mr. Speaker, of when the President

called a lot of the Members of the minority here in this House down to

the White House and they had a meeting and the President came out,

mikes and everything, not one Democrat here, saying that we stand with

the President, this is what the minority president said: ``We stand

with the President in not overriding his veto.''

I want to know, Mr. Speaker, how many times the Members of the

minority party are going to go down to the White House and stand on the

schoolhouse door of allowing us to move in a new direction. The

American people are way ahead of us on this issue.

I am so happy that Chairman Skelton has brought this to the House

floor. I am hoping that we have a bipartisan vote on it. I am

encouraging every Member of the House, and I do mean every Member of

the House, even my good friends on the other side of the aisle, to vote

for a commonsense new direction. And I think that is very, very

important as we look at this responsible redeployment act.

Once again, it takes courage to be a Member of the House. It takes

also leadership to be a Member of the House. And some of us have to go

see the wizard and pick up both of those values that we all hold and

that we should hold. So I encourage you to cast an affirmative vote on

the Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act.