Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support

of H.R. 2956, the ``Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act.''

This legislation would accomplish what the majority of the American

people have said over and over that they support--the redeployment of

American troops from Iraq. H.R. 2956 would require this redeployment to

begin within 120 days, with completion to a limited presence by April

1, 2008.

The evidence continues to mount that the surge is not working. More

than 3,500 troops have lost their lives and more than 26,000 have been

wounded since this war began. The costs are too great to continue this

failed policy.

The progress report that was presented to Congress today states that

the Iraqi government has made limited progress in meeting political,

economic, or security benchmarks and in some instances has made

virtually no progress at all. The President said that when the Iraqis

stand up, our troops will stand down. More than four years later, we

are still waiting.

Increasingly, Republican senators are coming forward to announce that

they support a change in policy in Iraq. I am glad that they are

finally accepting what many of us have been saying for months. Yet the

President continues to dig in by promoting his failed policy against

the will of the American people and despite dwindling support within

his own party.

This bill establishes a new direction for our forces in Iraq. I urge

my colleagues to listen to their constituents and support this

legislation.