Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking

member for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, typically I would talk about all the spending problems

in this bill. I want to talk about that for a moment.

This bill includes $16 billion in non-war, non-emergency spending. It

blows through the $6.45 billion reserve fund that the incumbent budget

resolution has for emergencies. It completely puts aside the rules that

govern whether or not and how we fund emergency spending.

We put in these rules last year, which to the majority's credit

continued this year, that said you can't just tuck anything in an

emergency spending bill. It actually has to really be an emergency.

Well, they have put those rules aside. We have got $16 billion of this

stuff in here.

But the real problem I have with this bill, Mr. Speaker, the real

concern I have is the signals it sends. We are telling our troops, we

are telling our men and women in uniform in harm's way in Iraq, you

have got 2 months, 2 months of funding, but we are letting any Member

of Congress open up the bidding war and put $16 billion of stuff in

here to fund them for a lot longer than 2 months. We are giving NASA

more money than they need. We are putting LIHEAP money in here even

after the winter has passed. We are putting money for the Architect of

the Capitol for tunnel maintenance. We are putting the minimum wage in

here. We

are saying yes to every other constituency, yes to every other spending

request, whether it has anything to do with Iraq or not, whether it is

a true emergency or not.

Some of these things may have merit, but why are they in this bill?

And, more importantly, why are we telling our troops 2 months and

you're up?

Mr. Speaker, our troops need better than that. They need to know we

are going to be there for them. The Iraqi people need to know we are

going to be there for them.

I was there just a couple months ago. Millions of Iraqis are sitting

on the fence, trying to determine whether they join us or join the

insurgency. If we tell them we are leaving in 2 months, we are cutting

off the funding in 2 months, guess what. Those millions of Iraqis

aren't going to join us. They aren't going to democracy. They are going

to be pressured for fear to join the insurgency.

This sends the wrong message to the Iraqis. It sends the wrong

message to our enemies. And it sure sends the wrong message to our

troops.

I urge defeat of this bill.