Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for

H.R. 2206, the U.S. Troops Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery,

and Iraq Accountability appropriations Act. This legislation will fund

our troops, protect our veterans, and give the much needed relief to

the Gulf region while sending a clear message to the Iraqi government

that they will not receive a blank check.

However, I would like to express my displeasure that the bill

includes a rescission of nearly $683 million in unobligated highway

funds. The cost of the Iraq war has already taken too many lives and

costs way too much money. Our nation's infrastructure is at a breaking

point, and cannot afford to be subjected to further cuts. At a time

when increased investment in our roadways is critical, this rescission

hurts our Federal-aid highway program. Some roads in my District have

been rated among the most dangerous in the country and it is critical

that we fully fund highway improvements to ensure the safety of our

constituents. I look forward to soon having the opportunity to vote to

restore these funds.