Mr. Speaker, I hope today, as we take this vote, that

people will understand really what is at stake here.

I have heard a lot of discussion today, and some Members are going to

go back home and say, well, I voted for this bill and against the

troops because I brought home some things for the people in my

district.

But today this vote is not about bringing home bacon for the people

in your district. It is about American security.

My family was in New York on 9/11, and my daughter-in-law and her

mother were supposed to be at the World Trade Center on 9/11. So when I

take this vote this afternoon or at noon, whenever we have this, let me

tell you the reason why Randy Neugebauer is going to be voting ``no.''

Because I am looking forward, not at what we are doing today and what

is going to, who is going to be able to take what projects home, but I

am looking forward to the security of America. I am looking into the

eyes of my grandsons Nathan and Noah and saying, Nathan and Noah, I

didn't leave America safe and secure for you.

This is about security. 9/11 is a real event. America was attacked.

We have been attacked before. We know this enemy is going to come back

and attack us again.

This bill, this vote, is about keeping America safe. So when Members

go home and brag about their vote on this, I hope that they go home and

brag about the fact that they cast a vote that will ensure a safe and

secure America because, you see, if you take all of these projects

home, and there is no security in America, there is no America.

I urge my colleagues not to vote for this bill.

I rise today in strong support of our troops and their mission in

Iraq.

Ten days ago, I returned from my third trip to Iraq. From the

generals to the privates, the message I heard from our troops in Iraq

was ``let us do our job so we can win.'' And that is precisely what we

should be doing here today.

Today, we should be working to provide our military with the tools

and resources needed to attain victory . . .

Today, we should be showing our troops that we are behind them 100

percent . . . And today, we should be showing the world that America

has the resolve to stand up to terrorist threats even when the going

gets tough.

Instead, this ill-advised legislation does just the opposite. By

putting restrictions on our military commanders and the President . . .

and setting a firm timeline and final date for withdrawal, this bill

undermines the war effort, sends the wrong message to our troops, and

telegraphs our war strategy to the enemy.

Our Constitution is clear in that it places the responsibility for

conducting the war in the hands of a single Commander-in-Chief, not

Congress. Our Founding Fathers wisely understood that having 535

politicians in Washington attempt to micromanage a war is a recipe for

disaster.

I am further disappointed that the majority has jeopardized the

success of the drought relief package for farmers and ranchers.

I strongly support drought relief and have been calling for federal

assistance since last summer. However, as much as I know producers in

my district support disaster assistance, I cannot in good conscience

support this supplemental because of the flawed military strategy that

the majority is pursuing in this bill.