Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the

Democrats' so-called emergency supplemental. This cynical bill uses our

troops as a political bargaining chip for additional billions in

unrelated, pork barrel spending, which has nothing to do with winning

the global war on terrorism. This bill has become a Christmas tree of

pork.

I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, what does $25

million for spinach growers, $74 million for peanut storage, and $50

for the Capitol Power Plant have to do with winning the wars in Iraq

and Afghanistan?

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the list of unrelated spending goes on

longer than I have time.

Spinach producers and peanut farmers may very well need and deserve

the money. And I am sure the Capitol Power Plant needs improvements,

but why in this bill? Why is this money not being considered through

regular order or subjected to normal budgetary rules, like PAYGO? And

most importantly, why at the expense of our troops?

This important spending bill is being used as a vehicle to

micromanage the war and score political points. Our troops deserve

better. We need to focus on getting the equipment to our troops on the

front lines and get away from political posturing.

However, this bill is not about the troops. It is about politics. It

is about tying the hands of the commander-in-chief because some in this

body do not agree with his policies.

People on both sides of the aisle can certainly agree that mistakes

have been made in Iraq and a change of strategy is long overdue.

However, what should this change of strategy be? Should the U.S.

immediately pull out of Iraq, leave the terrorists emboldened and

potentially put more Americans at risk? Or do we need a new strategy to

win the war and finish the job?

While no proposal guarantees success, a precipitous withdrawal of

U.S. support would guarantee failure. The stakes are too high to fail

in Iraq. It remains in America's strategic interests to ensure regional

stability in the Middle East and to deny terrorists a safe haven in

Iraq.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill. Furthermore, I hope

that the House leadership will bring up a clean bill that focuses

solely on supporting our troops and not one filled up with pork and

unrelated spending.