I thank my distinguished colleague, the ranking member

of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

And I want to have the opportunity to speak. I have spoken earlier on

this debate, but I thought I would bring some simple common sense to my

colleagues that perhaps was best brought forward by David Broder in the

Washington Post. Now, David Broder obviously is more sympathetic to the

Democratic point of view than they are to the Republicans, but I think

he makes three points which I will also echo in my conversation today.

Basically, we are at the end of the debate, but we are all moving

towards a decision most of us already have decided, but I have some

simple common sense that I would bring to the attention of my

colleagues.

When General Petraeus was unanimously supported by the Senate, it was

with the idea that he would bring his new thoughts, his new strategy to

this plan in Iraq. So don't you think, as members of this body, we

should give General Petraeus an opportunity to implement his plan and

not immediately come forward with a resolution that says that it is a

disapproving of the decision to deploy more troops to Iraq?

When we deployed more troops for the Iraqi elections, why didn't you

complain then? That happened twice before. We went up to almost

160,000. When we deployed more troops to ratify the Iraqi constitution,

why didn't you complain back then? That went up to almost 160,000.

So now you are coming against a simple new strategy with the best we

have in America who actually has written the manual on how to do it.

You are not even willing to give him a chance. No breathing space. This

nonbinding resolution shows your motives, which are to eventually

reduce all funding for Iraq.

My third point is, you are so willing to do this, you are not even

willing to look at what could happen with this new strategy. Let's say

it works. Are you still going to offer these resolutions to cut off

funds even though this strategy works and General Petraeus is

successful? No matter what, you seem hell bent on reducing funds for

Iraq. Yet we didn't hear any time before when we increased the surge

for the Iraqi elections or for the ratification of the Iraqi

constitution.

You know, in a way, Bush went to your retreat with a willingness to

listen to your ideas. He is showing bipartisanship. In fact, he has a

quote here which I think illustrates what the American people are

saying. ``What really matters,'' quote, ``is what happens on the

ground. I can talk all day long, but what really matters to the

American people is to see progress.''

So he realizes also that he must show progress. And we are asking for

this new strategy to have a chance, and we owe it to them.