I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a serious matter. We have been discussing this

now for days here in the House, but I want to tell you that I am

opposed to this resolution, because it doesn't do anything.

I want to see our troops home, and I want to see our troops safe. I

would venture to say that, with the exception of, maybe, Mr. Murtha, I

have seen and visited more wounded troops, soldiers and Marines at our

military hospitals than anybody in this Chamber; and I don't want them

to be in harm's way any longer.

The problem is, I have strong recollections of September 11; and even

before September 11, I remember the bombing of the USS Cole where our

military, our sailors were killed and wounded. I remember the bombings

of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. I remember the

bombings of the Khobar Towers, where American airmen were housed in

Saudi Arabia. I remember the bombing of the Marine barracks in Lebanon.

I remember the hostages taken by terrorists and held for 444 days in

Iran.

I remember all of that, but what I remember, that I will never, ever

get out of my mind, is September 11, being on the highway immediately

next to the Pentagon when the airplane hit the Pentagon and killed many

of our friends and colleagues.

I remember going to Ground Zero just a few days after September 11 to

deliver satellite telephones to the police and the firefighters because

their existing communications didn't work due to all of the confusion,

because of the disruption to the communications lines.

I remember the smoke was still rising, the dust was still flying.

I remember the American people demanded that something be done. They

were tired of us being subjected to terrorist attacks, Americans being

killed, and nothing being done about it.

The American people demanded that something be done, and they

demanded through our Congress that something be done. The President was

under this pressure and demanded that something be done. Congress

debated then and two-thirds of the Members who were here at the time

voted to give the President legal, lawful authority to do whatever had

to be done.

This Congress should be prepared to do whatever has to be done to

eliminate the terrorist threat. I don't care whether it is in Iraq,

whether it is in Afghanistan, whether it is in Somalia, whether it is

in Mogadishu, wherever it is, we have got to protect Americans from the

threat of terrorism and from terrorist attacks; and we need to support

our troops who are out there on the front line making sure that we at

home are being protected.

Now these soldiers have been promised by the Commander in Chief that

they are going to have some reinforcements, that they are going to have

some help to fight this fight, the aggressive fight that is now finally

taking place. The Maliki government was finally pressured to allow us

to attack the targets that were real targets, to allow us to attack

whether they were politically harmful to the Maliki government or not.

What about the soldiers in the field who were expecting that they

would get some reinforcements and that maybe, with those

reinforcements, they might get an extra night's sleep?

What about the soldier who had hoped that reinforcements would allow

him or her to sit down to a hot lunch, rather than having to grab an

MRE and eat that MRE on the run?

What about the soldiers in the field who hoped that reinforcements

would allow them to find time to read their mail or send a letter to

their loved ones back home?

Mr. Speaker, this is a serious issue. If this House is serious about

Congress bringing home our troops, then do it right. This resolution

doesn't bring any troops home. It doesn't provide any safety or

security for our troops. It doesn't provide anything to help with the

mission in the global war on terror.

If you want to do it right, bring a resolution out here to the floor

that does it right, that brings them home, that stops whatever it is

that we are doing there in Iraq.

But, if you know anything about what our military troops are doing,

you know that once you get into a battle, once you get into a fight, it

is easy to get into a war. You can almost slip into it without

recognizing you are getting into it. But once you are in the fight,

getting out is not easy.

Once you are in the battle, you have several options. You win or you

lose or you surrender or you retreat or you negotiate. Who do we

negotiate with? Negotiating would be nice if we could end this by

negotiations. Who do you negotiate with? You can't even find Bin Laden,

if, in fact, he is alive.

The problem here is, once you get into the fight, which we did with

the support of the American people and with the support of this

Congress, once you get into the fight, it is just not that easy to get

out of it unless you win or you lose. Winning is better than losing.