Madam Speaker, just 2 days ago, on February 14, Osama bin

Laden's deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri, posted a speech on an Islamist Web

site where he blessed jihad fighters in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Somalia

and urged the mujahadeen all over world to remain steadfast since

complete victory was near. He made special mention of those in the

Islamic jihadist media and thanked them for their blessed efforts which

cause the Crusaders to lose sleep.

There is no doubt about it, Madam Speaker. We are fighting against an

enemy that uses every weapon at its disposal to inflict casualties upon

our soldiers in the field. This enemy seeks not just victory in Iraq

but the reestablishment of a greater Islamic caliphate that would

threaten the security of America and freedom-loving people throughout

the world.

Today, this House will vote on a nonbinding resolution that

disapproves of a surge in Iraq, a resolution that discourages our

troops yet fails to satisfy the antiwar movement of America's left.

The resolution will likely pass today with near unanimous support of

my friends on the other side of the aisle. Yet, Madam Speaker, I am

troubled by their seeming unwillingness to accept the real consequences

of this outcome. This from the party of John F. Kennedy, who so

inspired our Nation when he said in his inaugural address: ``Let every

Nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any

price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose

any foe in order to ensure the survival and the success of liberty.''

Madam Speaker, we have come a long way since our Nation's 35th

President spoke those words 46 years ago.

This debate arrives at an historic time in our Nation's history, not

because of the resolution we are considering today but because the

results of our efforts in Iraq will have a true impact on the lives of

our soldiers and the security of all of us for generations to come.

Recently, I received a letter from one of my constituents who

expressed some very real concerns about the Democrats' view of the war

in Iraq. He writes: ``I am a service member that has served in Iraq,

training Iraqis. I have 19 years of service. I spent 6 years in the

Virginia Army National Guard, and I am entering my 13th year of active

Federal service.

``Pulling out of Iraq doesn't send the right message to those we are

fighting,'' he said. ``Not enough is being said about what the U.S.

will do if we withdraw and what will happen in the midst of a power

vacuum . . . ''

The soldier went on to say: ``I personally served in the streets of

Baghdad in 2006, and I would have felt better serving, thinking that

both houses of Congress gave me their full support.''

Madam Speaker, what we debate in this House, how we conduct

ourselves, does have real consequences. Some of our country's bravest

are on the battlefield and on the streets of Baghdad as we speak.

We have seen throughout our history what happens when our resolve is

weak. In 1993 this country half-heartedly supported the commitment of

troops to subdue the violent warlords of Somalia. The precipitous

withdrawal in the face of casualties left a chaotic nation to this day

that harbors terrorists and is a feeding ground for instability.

The lessons of history must not be forgotten as we face a determined

enemy of Islamic terrorists who are waging a war upon freedom.

Madam Speaker, the American people want us to fight and win in Iraq

and bring our troops home. Our soldiers seek nothing more than the

support they require to perform their mission and the knowledge that

the American people believe that their sacrifice is necessary and

noble.

Contrary to some of those on the other side of the aisle who have

stood here in this well believing and saying

that this debate is a breath of fresh air, our enemies will be the only

ones satisfied by this debate. They will have received all the

political rhetoric they require to convince their followers that

complete victory is at hand. One can only imagine with horror how many

Islamic radicals will be inspired to continue the fight after this

House resolves that it supports our troops but not the mission we ask

them to perform.

To those who support this resolution and oppose any effort to achieve

victory in Iraq, I challenge you to be true to your convictions and

bring a binding resolution to the floor to cut off funds for our

troops, because that is really what this is all about.

Madam Speaker, I oppose this resolution and urge my colleagues to

vote ``no'' and send a message worth hearing to America, our soldiers,

and our enemies.