Madam Speaker. I rise today to express my strong support

for our country's troops as they defend our freedoms and protect our

national security.

Today we are debating a non-binding resolution that threatens to

undermine the morale of the very troops who are at the tip of the spear

defending our shores. This resolution does a disservice to the very

troops some in this body are pledging to support by voting for this

today.

President George W. Bush has proposed sending additional troops to

Iraq to give those currently in the field the necessary manpower and

resources to win the war. In addition, the President has put in place a

new leadership team and a new strategy in Iraq.

While we all know that mistakes have been made in the war in Iraq, I

am inclined to support the President's new plan. But make no mistake:

there must be new benchmarks, clearly defined goals, and we need to see

real results soon.

Some in this body are using this resolution today as a first step to

defund the troops in the field. Madam Speaker, choking off the funding

for American troops serving in harm's way will do nothing more than

embolden our enemies and ensure defeat.

Throughout our nation's history, millions of men and women have

served the United States in times of crisis and need in the armed

services. These men and women--and the soldiers currently in the

theater of combat--have made sacrifices that must not ever be

forgotten.

Madam Speaker, instead of debating non-binding resolutions that

threaten to undermine morale and embolden our enemies, we should be

helping our troops by making sure they have the support and resources

they need to defend our country by fighting our enemies overseas. Madam

Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to reject this political gimmick and

vote against this resolution.