Thank you for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the issue before us, the war

in Iraq.

In this past year, the American people clearly demanded change. I am

new to this body, but I know Nevadans wanted me to help institute

changes in the direction of this country.

As we debate this resolution, I really have to wonder if we have

heard the American people. This resolution brought forth by the

majority says two conflicting things: we are opposed to the war in

Iraq, but we are for staying the course. These two positions are

irreconcilable.

As I watch this debate, I have not seen any proposals for change.

What we are debating today is the same as what has been debated in the

past. We stand here in this body controlled by a new majority who

campaigned on instituting change, claimed to be the party of change,

and has control of the gavel in both Houses of Congress. Instead of

offering a path to victory, they are playing politics.

My question is, what does this vote actually accomplish? Does it

implement new ideas to win the war in Iraq? Will our country be safer

because of this resolution? Does it enable our troops to fight more

effectively by giving them the supplies that they need? The answer to

these questions is a simple ``no.''

As a newly elected Member, I came here to find solutions to our

country's problems. To that end, I am supporting legislation to

institute benchmarks. I am supporting legislation that will make our

troops and their needs fully funded. I support diplomacy and making the

Iraqi Government more accountable.

The message that I want to send on our troop is, I am with you, and

you can count on me.

Because, really, we are counting on them.

Mr. Speaker, why can't we be for something today, an actual

alternative, instead of debating a nonbinding resolution that tells our

soldiers we don't support your mission? Our enemies believe America is

weak and their propaganda says the United States is losing the war

against terrorism.

Osama bin Laden's deputy and terrorist network have stated that Iraq

is the central front in their fight against American and Western

ideals. Iraq is the central front to push their radical ideology of

hate and intolerance. These are the real bad guys. These are the people

we should be focusing our attention on, not tearing down our leaders,

commanders and brave soldiers in the field. The reality is the

terrorists are determined to kill Americans, wherever we may be.

Therefore, we must take the fight to them.

The fact is, this resolution only strengthens our enemies and does

nothing to solve or address any of the national security issues facing

our country. The stakes are high in Iraq. Nothing less than our very

safety and survival is at issue. Nothing less than the lives of the

courageous members of our armed services are on the line. It is

critical that we have a real debate on the issues and address these

points.

Let's, instead, together look for a new way forward, for a path to

victory and for the best way to support our brave men and women

overseas who are fighting to keep us safe. Let's instead focus on what

we need to win this vital conflict, not a meaningless resolution, which

is what we are offered here today.

To paraphrase the late Charlie Norwood, a decorated war veteran,

``The choice before us today is clear: either America or al Qaeda.''