Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House

Concurrent Resolution 63.

I strongly support H. Con. Res. 63, opposing the President's proposal

to send 21,500 additional American troops into the middle of a civil

war in Iraq.

More than 5 years after the worst terrorist attack in the history of

our country, the mastermind behind it--Osama bin Laden--is still alive,

free, and planning another attack on our country. And the President

rarely even mentions his name.

Instead, he pursues a failed policy in Iraq. The number of American

soldiers killed in Iraq now exceeds the number of lives taken on

September 11, 2001, and this war has now lasted longer than our

involvement in World War II.

The President's response is to send more troops. This surge is

nothing more than an escalation of the failed policy that has been

tried several times already. I couldn't disagree more with the

President.

The Bush policy in Iraq will, in my opinion, go down in history as

one of the biggest blunders in the history of warfare. Why? Because the

terrorist who attacked us is still at large and the situation in Iraq

gets worse by the day. Simply put, we went after the wrong guy!

So what should we do now in Iraq? A target date for redeployment of

our troops should be set, and their withdrawal from Iraq should begin

now. Then the Iraqis who say they support their new government will

have the incentive to step forward and volunteer for military service--

something they will not do as long as we offer to take all the enemy

fire.

As others have said, ``The Iraqis need to demonstrate that they want

this new government more than we do.''

It's decision time for the Iraqi people.

The President has submitted a supplemental budget request for almost

$100 billion to further fund the war in Iraq. If Congress

does not amend this proposal to include an exit strategy, I will--as I

did on the last Iraq war supplemental on March 16th, 2006--vote ``no.''