Mr. Speaker, as we speak here today, progress is being

made in Iraq. As chairman of the Water and Power Subcommittee, I have

visited Iraq and witnessed firsthand their accomplishments. With our

help, they have surpassed prewar electrical generation levels and are

on track to be generating at almost 140 percent over their prewar level

by June. Water facilities are currently operating at 65 percent of

prewar levels and are improving. Current projects include the

rehabilitation of 15 water treatment facilities and a canal to Basra.

These projects will benefit millions of Iraqis and provide for a future

of water reliability.

But make no mistake, we did not go into Iraq to improve water

infrastructure or increase electrical power capabilities. One year ago,

this country, along with our allies, made the decision to topple a

tyrannical regime, liberate a people, and help build a democracy in the

heart of a terrorist breeding ground. However, the gift of freedom and

democracy is being built on the basic level of services and quality of

life which they are building today. We must stand by the Iraqi people

in their long and challenging journey toward democracy because their

freedom contributes to our security and the security of the world.

God bless America and God bless our troops.