Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution.

Today, the global war on terror is being waged on two primary fronts,

as we know: Afghanistan and Iraq.

In Afghanistan, a resurgent Taliban is attempting to undermine the

efforts of the United States and our NATO allies. The threat from these

murderous extremist terrorists remains real, and if one does not

believe us, then I suggest reviewing the events of recent days in

Canada, where the terrorists, motivated by Canada's participation in

Afghanistan, unsuccessfully attempted to decapitate the Canadian

government. Mr. Speaker, the United States and our NATO allies must

remain resolute in Afghanistan.

In Iraq, which I visited last year, I believe it is important and

imperative that this Congress must have a serious, sober discussion

about the consequences of failure in Iraq and what that means for the

future. Failure in Iraq means a more destabilized Middle East that will

be manifested by increasing sectarian strife and a political vacuum

that will be filled by murderers and anarchists who most assuredly are

not committed to the rule of law.

What is worse, the war will continue, not only in a destabilized

Middle East, but elsewhere and in places we would rather not fight. Our

friends and allies will be at greatest risk and more exposed than is

currently the case.

To be sure, mistakes have been made in Iraq, from pre-war

intelligence to de-Ba'athification to the destructive events of Abu

Ghraib, but these mistakes should not stop us from our goal: the

establishment of a stable, representative, national unity government

that can manage the security situation much better itself and that

lives in peace with its neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to submit additional remarks for the

Record detailing the efforts of the House Homeland Security Committee's

contributions in fighting this global war on terror.

The Global War on Terror is, by virtue of its title, a war with

world-wide scope. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am

particularly concerned about the way in which this war can impact our

way of life here, in these United States. And I believe that we have

been doing a fine job of trying to make sure that terrorists or agents

of foreign powers Do Not harm us on our shores.

Since September 11, the Homeland Security Committee has enacted or

sponsored legislation designed to insure the safety of the people

living in this country. In H.R. 1544, the Faster and Smarter First

Responders Act, we tried to make sure that homeland security grant

dollars are spent according to risk, and not with regard to political

concerns. In H.R. 1817, the Homeland Security Authorization Act for

Fiscal Year 2006, we authorized the recruitment and training of 2,000

new border patrol agents to insure that terrorists are not able to

penetrate our land borders.

As part of the Global War on Terror we have likewise worked hard to

make sure that goods moving into this country are secure. In H.R. 4954,

the SAFE Port Act of 2006, the Committee authorizes $821 million

annually for port security programs. This bill further requires the

Department of Homeland Security, DHS, to deploy nuclear and

radiological detection systems at 22 U.S. seaports by the end of FY07,

an action that will cover 98 percent of incoming maritime containers.

Further, it makes sure that the people working at our port facilities

are properly cleared and identified by forcing DHS to set deadlines for

the implementation of the Transportation Worker Information Credential,

TWIC, program, a biometrically-enhanced identification card system

designed to make sure that those who would seek to commit acts of

terrorism against us are Not allowed to work within the U.S. port

system.

We have also worked hard to make sure that our transportation

modalities are also protected in this Global War on Terror. In H.R.

5441, the Homeland Security Appropriations bill, which the House passed

on May 25, 2006, we appropriated $2.05 billion for Coast Guard port and

waterway security operations, $2.6 billion to screen airline passenger

baggage, $13.2 million for rail security inspectors and explosive

detection canines, and $458 million for biological, chemical, and

explosives countermeasures to protect the Nation's critical

infrastructure.

Of course, in addition to securing our transportation modalities, we

have also taken steps to make sure that terrorists in the Global War on

Terror are not able to access what they clearly would most like to get

their hands on--nuclear materials. The SAFE Port Act codifies in law

the establishment of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, DNDO.

Earlier this year I had the opportunity to visit the DNDO facility in

Nevada, and I am firmly convinced of the importance of maintaining the

vitality of this organization. The DNDO has one of the most important

missions within the DHS--the detection and identification of nuclear

materials. During my visit, I observed first-hand the testing of

nuclear and radiological countermeasures, including detection devices

designed to identify vehicles transporting nuclear explosive devices,

fissile material, and radiological material intended for illicit use.

The SAFE Port Act further requires the DNDO to conduct testing of next-

generation nuclear and radiological detection equipment and to put

forth a timeline for completing installation of such equipment at all

U.S. seaports.

Members of the Homeland Security Committee have worked hard to insure

the safety of Americans, our commerce, and our infrastructure. Since

September 11, we have not had a major terrorist incident in this

country. And I believe that it is appropriate to attribute this

positive development at least in part to the efforts of the leadership

of this Committee, which is determined to make sure that the homeland

is indeed a safe place.