Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of H. Res. 861.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution, H.

Res. 861, and to emphatically declare that we will prevail in the War

on Terror across the globe, and in Iraq.

We've already amassed a long list of accomplishments. Mr. Speaker,

since being liberated from the oppressive Taliban regime, native

Afghans have returned to their homeland in droves, many of whom are

highly educated teachers, healthcare providers, and community leaders

that were thrown out of the country by the Taliban.

The Afghan economy continues to power ahead and previously unheard-of

opportunities are opening up, particularly for Afghani women.

Regrettably, these accomplishments don't seem to generate much

enthusiasm with the mainstream media or our colleagues on the other

side of the aisle. If you did nothing but listen to their negativity,

you would not know that more than 3,600 schools in Iraq have been

rehabilitated, or that 240 hospitals and 1,200 medical clinics have

been reopened, nor that 13 power plants have been built, providing

about 60 percent of Iraq's power generation, or that over 250,000 Iraqi

security forces have been trained, equipped, and are fighting on the

front line against the insurgency!

Further, Mr. Speaker, without our policies and efforts in carrying

out the War on Terror, Libya would not have given up their WMD

programs, free elections would not have taken place in Afghanistan and

Iraq, a national unity government would not be in place in Iraq, and

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi would still be carrying out terrorist operations.

Instead of heralding the unparalleled successes of our troops and our

policies in prosecuting this war, my colleagues on the other side of

the aisle would have the American people believe we are losing.

Perhaps Mr. Speaker, the hope of political gains has some of my

colleagues seeking to exploit the few missteps we have incurred while

ignoring a much greater number of victories.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot give in to the anti-war rhetoric, which only

serves to embolden our enemies while offering little hope and little

vision. It is always easier to pull back the reigns and watch from the

sidelines, but we in America choose to be active in determining the

course of history. Make no mistake, we are in a tough fight for the

future of peace, freedom, and democracy in the Middle East and around

the globe, but winning should be our only option.

As we debate this resolution today, let us not forget that nearly

everyone of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle when presented

with the same pre-war intelligence that President Bush had concluded

with high confidence that Iraq was continuing its' WMD programs

contrary to U.N. resolutions. For those who now want to claim the pre-

war intelligence was in some way fabricated, both the bipartisan Senate

Intelligence Committee in 2004 and bipartisan Robb-Silberman Committee

in 2005 did not find any evidence to support that claim. It is shameful

that ``Monday Morning'' critics who hate Secretary Rumsfeld and

President Bush are now resorting to false claims about pre-war

intelligence

Given that Sadaam Hussein had used weapons of mass destruction on

neighboring

countries in the past, along with his desire to bring us harm,

Republicans and Democrats alike reached consensus that the potential

for him to either harm us directly with these weapons, or indirectly by

passing them on to terrorists, was too great a risk to take.

The terrible human rights atrocities committed by Sadaam and his

blatant disregard for repeated U.N. resolutions were further compelling

grounds for our bi-partisan actions.

Mr. Speaker, none of these facts have changed. What has changed is

the resolve of many on the other side of the aisle who in the process

of changing their footing on the war, have become more interested in

playing politics than in defeating terrorism and defending freedom.

When these Members of Congress who are advocating a defeatist strategy,

sometimes referred to as ``cut and run'', were presented with the

opportunity in November 2005 to vote on withdrawing our forces from

Iraq immediately, only 3 of those behind these calls stood by their

words.

Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki of Iraq made the

following statements this past Friday: ``We believe we will soon reach

a tipping point in our battle against the terrorists as Iraqi security

services increase in size and capacity, taking more and more

responsibility away from the multinational forces. With our allies, we

will also persevere to make Iraq a prosperous democracy in the heart of

the Middle East.''

Mr. Speaker, it is easy to see great hope and potential in the Iraqi

government and the Iraqi people. However, ill conceived and short

sighted strategies threaten any chance of Iraq becoming a bastion for

democracy in the Middle East. I sincerely hope the defeatist rhetoric

of the minority party will not dishearten the brave men and women who

are defending and advancing freedom around the globe.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to support this resolution.

Let our brave men and women in uniform know that we will never break

faith with them. Let the Iraqi people know that their patriots have not

died in vain.