Mr. Chairman, this is the, I believe, sixth time that I've

come to the floor during this Congress to call for disclosure and full

transparency throughout the Federal Government. So this is not my first

time on the floor on this issue. I've risen on many bills, and I will

continue to because I think it's really critical to help restore the

confidence of the American people in their government and how it

operates.

I maintain the view, and it's shared by the majority of the American

people, that transparency in the use of our tax dollars is absolutely

critical. I want to pay tribute to my colleague, Mr. Ellison, for

offering this amendment, and together we support it and offer it to the

full House.

I believe that with public dollars come public responsibilities.

There are thousands of companies who do business with the Federal

Government, and they receive billions of dollars--of public dollars--

for their services and products. And I think that all of our

constituents deserve to know whether and how they spend these dollars

and whether they are used to influence our elections.

The amendment I'm offering with Congressman Ellison will provide this

transparency by requiring that post-award contractors or

subcontractors--which is very important, we don't want to interfere

with the contracting process whatsoever, but once they have been

awarded a contract--disclose all political contributions. This should

be the norm of the day.

Disclosure is extraordinarily powerful because it puts the American

people in the driver's seat. Constituents deserve to know who is

involved in their elections and what their purpose might be. I think

it's sad that just a few days ago the United States Senate killed the

DISCLOSE Act. It was a sad day for the Congress. But I think the

American people are taking note.

Anyone who supports the Citizens United decision, which I don't,

legalizing corporate expenditures, should know that eight out of nine

Supreme Court Justices endorsed prompt disclosure. Justice Anthony

Kennedy wrote:

Disclosure permits citizens and shareholders to react to the speech

of corporate entities in a proper way.

Now, Republicans supported disclosure before they were against it,

and I would hope that my Republican colleagues would come back into the

fold. There's no reason to oppose transparency and disclosure unless

someone really wants to hide anything. And I don't think any of us

wants to hide behind the hiding. It just is not good government. The

American people, the people that we are here to represent and have the

privilege of representing, deserve more information and not less.

We can bring this about by adopting this policy. I urge my colleagues

to support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.