Mr. Chairman, I rise to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment, and I

understand and I am pleased that the chairman is going to accept it,

because ICAP is one of the few overwhelming success stories with

respect to Iraq reconstruction.

Since 2003, ICAP has worked with communities in all of Iraq's 18

governorates to empower ordinary Iraqis to determine, implement and

monitor reconstruction and development in their communities.

We all talk about how Iraqis need to run their own country, choose

their own government, fight their own battles, make their own

priorities. ICAP is aimed at accomplishing just this goal.

Its implementing partners have trained more than 620 Iraqi staff

members. In turn, they have trained over 17,000 community action group

members. And ICAP partners do not contract with multi-national

corporations to get their work done. Only Iraqi contractors carry out

ICAP projects. So, as we move forward, ICAP can be an excellent

complement to the new provincial reconstruction teams being established

throughout Iraq.

The gentleman's amendment would ensure that ICAP does not run out of

funding this summer, as it certainly will if no further resources are

provided. So it would be a shame to end this program prematurely. Mr.

Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.