Mr. Speaker, let me thank Chairman Obey, first of all, for

his strong and determined effort and his diligent effort to end this

war. And, also, I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr.

McGovern) for offering this bill.

H.R. 2237 does reflect the goals of what we call the Lee amendment,

which was sponsored by Congresswomen Waters, Woolsey, Watson, and

Clarke. But let me tell you the goal of this bill, as the goal of the

Lee amendment really is an effort to fully fund the safe and timely

redeployment of our troops from Iraq. It is responsible. It is

practical. It does not cut the funding. But it designates what the

supplemental can be used for, and that is to fully fund a safe

withdrawal and redeployment and help the Iraqis stabilize their country

with a diplomatic, social, and reconstruction effort.

Members of Congress now can choose between standing with the

President or the American people who want an end to this occupation, or

the President, as I said, who wants an open-ended commitment to this

failed policy.

History will record that this war was a deadly mistake. History will

document the damage that it has already done to our security and the

security of the world, just as it already records the case for the war

as fraudulent, something that we all would have known had the House

approved my amendment in 2002 that would have allowed the United

Nations inspectors to finish their job.

One day history will record that this unnecessary occupation ended.

What remains to be seen is when it will end and at what cost in lives

and treasure and what cost to our security and the security of the

world.

For those Members who recognize that the President's policy is a

failure but are concerned about voting to end this failed policy and to

redeploy our troops, I have a question for you: At what point will you

be comfortable with that vote? When the death toll hits 5,000 or

10,000?

Please vote for this. Please vote to end this occupation and bring

our young men and women home. Please stop the deaths.

We have already paid close to half a trillion dollars pursuing this

failed policy.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot ``win'' an occupation, just as the United

States cannot ``win'' an Iraqi civil war.

We know that there is no military solution to the situation in Iraq.

Our generals have told us that. The fact is that, the presence of our

troops, who are seen as an occupying force, enflames the very

insurgency that they are asked to deal with.

In listening to this desperate rhetoric about ``surrender,'' and

about ``defeat'' I am confident that history will look upon such

remarks with the same ridicule that it reserves for the Vietnam war

supporters discredited ``domino theory'' or the President's ``mission

accomplished'' speech on the decks of the USS Abraham Lincoln, more

than 4 years ago.

Today, members of Congress will decide what side of history they will

be on. I urge them to stand with the American people and all those who

recognize that there is no military solution to the situation in Iraq,

and to vote for H.R. 2237, legislation to fully fund the safe and

timely withdrawal of our troops from Iraq.