Mr. Speaker and Members, I take this opportunity to thank

the leadership for honoring the work and the request of the

progressives of this House to place a bill before this body that we

could feel good about supporting.

Some of us have been against this war. We have come to the floor. We

have done interviews. We have worked the floor. We have done everything

that we possibly can to communicate what we believe are the feelings of

the American public about this war. The November vote indicated to us,

and should have to others, that Americans are sick and tired of this

war. They want to bring our soldiers home. They want to stop the loss

of lives. They want to stop the money that is being spent, over $400

billion on Iraq and Afghanistan; 3,200 or more lives that have been

lost; over 25,000 soldiers who have been seriously injured.

Some of us are not willing to spend other another dime on this war.

And this bill that is before us, thanks to Barbara Lee and Mr. McGovern

and to Lynn Woolsey and I, we have this bill that represents the

thinking of the progressives of this House that simply says, we will

give no more money to continue fighting this war, but rather, any money

that is expended would simply be funds to help wind down this war and

to bring our soldiers out; no permanent bases left in Iraq; and

basically that no money would be spent on a surge. This surge that the

President has initiated is placing our soldiers at

great risk. As a matter of fact, there is no safety in the Green Zone.

As a matter of fact, we do not have friends in Iraq. The Sunnis are

against us. The Shias are against us. The Kurds are against us. And

those Iraqi soldiers that are embedded are undermining our soldiers. I

would ask for an ``aye'' vote on this very progressive piece of

legislation.