Mr. Speaker, I too want to thank Mr. Tanner,

Mr. Abercrombie, and Mr. Skelton and our Republican colleagues for

coming together.

Mr. Speaker, this is what I refer to as a soaring golden moment in

this Congress because this is the beginning. This is a beginning of

effective planning for bringing conclusion in a very responsible way to

what the American people truly want.

And why is this a golden moment? This is a golden moment in this

House because the only way that we are going to bring this Iraqi

situation to a positive conclusion is with Democrats working with

Republicans.

Democrats cannot do it by ourselves, Republicans cannot do it by

themselves.

The other point why this is a golden moment, Mr. Speaker, is because

this shows, and the process of this legislation and the reporting and

the involvement of the Congress shows, that we are not going to make

the same mistake ending our involvement in Iraq that we made in going

in; and that was poor planning, bad information, and ineffective

intelligence. That's why I commend this.

It's very important for the American people to see us finally, as

Democrats and Republicans, working together in this start to take this

great step. And let us dare not lose this golden moment of bipartisan

cooperation.