Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R.

3087.

This bill requires the administration to develop a new, redefined

mission regarding our involvement and long term interests in Iraq.

This body has taken many votes this year on the issue of Iraq, but

this is the first bill to address this issue that has come to the Floor

with overwhelming bipartisan support.

A bipartisan approach is critical to put an end to the political

infighting that has thus far stymied congressional debate on Iraq.

As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense and a

Vietnam veteran myself, it is my utmost concern to see that our troops

are receiving the resources that they need, but I will continue to

assert that our military has done all that we have asked it to do and

now it is time for the Iraqi Government to take responsibility for the

country's future.

Given that, our Commander in Chief owes this Congress and the

American people a plan for a redefined mission that reflects this

reality.

I have always believed that bipartisanship equals progress and in no

other situation is the need more immediate. In fact, I hope that my

colleagues know me as a person who puts these words into action. In the

near future, I will be leading a bipartisan congressional delegation to

visit our men and women stationed in Iraq.

It is my sincere hope that our upcoming bipartisan trip and this vote

today begin a new era where Members continue to join together on areas

in which we find agreement in order to make progress for the good of

the American people and our great country.