Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3087,

legislation that will require the administration to develop and share

with Congress a comprehensive strategy for the redeployment of U.S.

forces from Iraq.

Our Nation recognizes that we cannot remain in Iraq indefinitely.

Just last week, General George Casey, the Army Chief of Staff,

testified before the House Armed Services Committee that ongoing

operations in Iraq were having a detrimental impact on our military

readiness, endangering our ability to deal with other contingencies or

problems. Our troops have done a superb job in a difficult mission, but

they were not sent to Iraq to referee a civil war, and we need to bring

them home. The violence in Iraq does not have a U.S. military solution;

the answer lies in the Iraqi political reconciliation, which we must

support with different methods.

The legislation before us today demonstrates Congress's commitment to

ending our military presence in Iraq by mandating that the Secretary of

Defense, in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of

Staff, report on the status of planning for redeployment of U.S. forces

from Iraq and to provide periodic updates about their implementation.

This information is vital for congressional oversight so that we ensure

our policies are informed by sound judgment and reflect the complex

logistical considerations involved with an undertaking of such

magnitude. The administration's poor planning for the post-invasion

period led to widespread problems in reconstruction and created the

environment of instability that reigns to this day. We must avoid

making that mistake again so that our withdrawal from Iraq does not

exacerbate existing problems or create new ones.

I will continue to work with my colleagues to demand a swift and safe

withdrawal of our U.S. forces from Iraq, and I encourage all of my

colleagues to support this measure.