Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 3087.

H.R. 3087 requires the Secretary of Defense to report to the Congress

within 60 days, and every 90 days thereafter, ``on the status of

planning for the redeployment of the Armed Forces from Iraq.'' This

bill specifies that the Pentagon is to describe a range of different

possible scenarios for withdrawal, and create multiple timelines for

completion of withdrawal. These reports will be valuable to the

Congress as it carries out its oversight responsibilities and considers

future legislation regarding Iraq. While it is necessary to require the

Department of Defense to draft plans for withdrawal for Iraq, it is not

sufficient. President Bush must finally implement these withdrawal

plans so that our brave men and women can return home to their families

having served honorably under extremely difficult conditions.

It is clear that President Bush is content to allow the next

President to clean up his mess in Iraq, and that is a travesty. The

bill that we are considering today will at least make that job slightly

easier for the next President, as the Pentagon will have already drawn

up detailed plans for our withdrawal from Iraq. As we know only too

well today, responsible planning and foresight was one of the earliest

casualties of President Bush's war in Iraq. If the Congress must force

such planning to be done, so be it.

Mr. Speaker, while I support H.R. 3087 and encourage all members to

vote for its passage today, it is tragic that due to opposition from

Republican leaders in the Congress and veto threats by the President,

we have not yet been able to make further progress on withdrawing our

troops from Iraq. There was no connection between the 9/11 attacks and

Saddam Hussein and no nuclear weapons in the sands of Iraq, yet the

President seems to have no intention of bringing this mistaken and ill-

conceived war to an end. It is a war that has made the United States

less secure, yet the President refuses to even begin thinking about a

new strategy. It is long past time for the United States to hand over

security in Iraq to the Iraqis, and I hope that this bill will move us

closer to that goal.