Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong

opposition to this closed rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, since the war on terror began, the Rules Committee has

granted an open rule for every wartime supplemental spending bill

brought to the floor, thus giving every Member an opportunity to offer

an amendment and have their say on those supplemental bills.

In the Rules Committee last night, we heard passionate testimony from

several Members on both sides of the aisle. Some Members spoke about

the need to continuing funding our troops to complete our mission,

while others offered hard deadlines for withdrawal, regardless of

consequence.

In the end, over 50 amendments were offered to the Rules Committee to

be made in order for consideration on the House floor today.

Regrettably, Mr. Speaker, not one single amendment, let me repeat that,

not one of the 50 amendments will be allowed to be considered by the

full House. And, Mr. Speaker, I am truly disappointed with that.

The bill we have before us today contains restrictions on funding and

conditions on what our troops are able to do that are simply, to me,

unacceptable. We have military leaders for a reason. Making 435 Members

of Congress commanders in the field is a formula for failure, which I

am deeply concerned will have a long-term consequence on our security

here at home.

By placing restrictions on funds, hamstringing our military and

calling for an arbitrary withdrawal, this bill will jeopardize the

ability of our troops to do their jobs to defend America.

A wartime spending bill, Mr. Speaker, should have, above all else, to

provide the support that our men and women in uniform need to

accomplish their mission. By placing conditions on funding, this bill

fails to do that. Conditions on funding make it impossible for our

military leaders and our troops on the ground to respond to ever-

changing conditions on the battlefield.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill has more than just military

funding. And I am disappointed now that it is only now, in an effort to

attract votes for a bad bill that we know will never be signed into

law, the Democrat leadership has decided to include in this bill an

extension of rural county payments.

I tried earlier this year to attach an extension to another bill.

That bill became law. I also tried to have a long-term extension

brought up on a vote, but the Democrat leadership said no, time and

time again. Allowing the extension to come to the floor only on a bill

that we know will be vetoed amounts to nothing more than false

promises.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this rule and the

underlying bill.