Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I rise in

opposition to the rule and to this underlying bill, and I will tell you

that it gives me no satisfaction to vote against a bill that has so

many things that are important to my State in terms of gulf coast

recovery and the relief effort after the hurricanes.

But I cannot in good conscience vote for a bill that is going to do

unspeakable harm to our troops in the field and to our national

security. I want to point out the fiscal fantasy also in this bill. I

want to point out one item. There is $15 million in this bill for rice

farmers in my district for salt water mitigation. That is twice the

number of dollars that we needed months ago for this. So if we have

that kind of bloating in the bill on one small item, I can't imagine

what this $28 billion extra in the bill is all about.

This bill is fiscal fantasy, and it does unspeakable harm to our

national security. For those reasons, I oppose it vehemently.