Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chair and my good friend for

yielding.

This bill will end the war in Iraq. This is the first enforceable

challenge to the President's plan to escalate and continue a stay-the-

course, open-ended commitment to a war, a war that was launched with

massive deception, and an unnecessary war.

One gentleman questioned Congress' power. Congress' power under

Article I, section 8 is very broad. We have the ability to modify the

original authorization for war, and that is essentially what we are

doing here by saying there will be an end to this war.

A year ago, just 1 year ago this March, the President said it will be

up to ``future Presidents,'' plural, not just the next one, plural,

``and future governments of Iraq'' to determine when our troops might

come home. That is not acceptable.

Our troops are mired in the midst of a civil war. Oh, they have

dragged out the old, If we don't fight them there, we'll fight them

here. Well, unfortunately, the Republicans are contradicted by the

Bush-appointed National

Intelligence Director who says al Qaeda is not looking to have a base

in Iraq and al Qaeda would be extraordinarily unlikely to attempt, and

has no capability to attack the United States from Iraq; but they are

looking to move back into Afghanistan, Afghanistan where we should have

stayed focused, a legitimate war against the Taliban, al Qaeda, and

Osama bin Laden. Remember him? Dead or alive; dead or alive. He is

still planning attacks against the United States of American, and Bush

wants to mire us down day after day in a civil war.

The Iraqis have to want to end this war. This bill will give them a

motivation to begin to lay aside their ages' old grudges and begin to

meaningfully cooperate and coordinate and share their oil wealth. That

is the only way this is going to end. It is a civil war. They have been

fighting it for 1,400 years. We need this bill. We need to motivate the

Iraqis to bring an end to this war, and we need to refocus on the real

threats to America.