Madam Speaker, congressional Democrats have repeatedly

urged President Bush to bring our troops home from Iraq honorably,

responsibly, safely, and soon.

After rejecting 18 months of attempts by the Democratic majority to

adopt redeployment timetables, the President now proposes a vague

general time horizon that falls far short of a commitment to ending

involvement in Iraq. The Iraq Government was more direct. For the

second time this month, Iraqi officials have indicated their support

for the withdrawal of U.S. combat forces by the end of 2010.

Maybe these statements served as a wake-up call to the Bush

administration. It appears they are finally getting the message that

the war in Iraq cannot go on indefinitely. Perhaps President Bush

should pass the message along to Senator McCain, who continues to

believe that our commitment in Iraq will last 50 to 100 years.

Madam Speaker, we need a new direction in Iraq that allows our troops

to come home and allows us to focus on the war on terrorism in

Afghanistan and around the world.