Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the

impressive work our troops are doing to fight and win the global war on

terror.

Last week, we debated a resolution pledging our commitment to victory

in Iraq. I was troubled by some of the rhetoric I heard coming from

other side of the aisle. Many Democrats are still advocating a

withdrawal policy, and that is a policy that is sure to fail.

Mr. Speaker, we are making significant strides toward a secure Iraq

and a more stable Middle East. At that critical moment, it would be a

tremendous mistake for us to set a hard deadline for troop withdrawal.

A deadline only serves to embolden the terrorists because they know

they only have to hold out for a few more weeks or months, or 6 months.

Instead, the House last week sent a resounding message to al Qaeda

that we will withdraw when the Iraqi security forces are ready and able

to defeat the terrorists and their brutal tactics. This, and not some

arbitrary deadline, is our true measure of success.

Mr. Speaker, once again, we have assured our troops that we will

support them and will allow them to finish this critical mission.