Mr. Speaker, last week President

Bush vetoed a plan to fund our troops and to change the direction in

Iraq. Following his veto, the House voted for the fourth time in 3

months for a new direction in Iraq and rejected the President's open-

ended commitment.

Unfortunately, House Republicans have refused to join us in our

attempts to change the course of the war. Republican Leader Boehner

said over the weekend that he wants a clean bill. What he is really

saying is that he wants us to rubber-stamp the President's war

proposal. That's what Republican Congresses have been doing for 4

years, and it hasn't helped our military and it hasn't made America

safer.

When are House Republicans going to realize that the American people

overwhelmingly support benchmarks and a real plan to change direction

in Iraq? One encouraging sign was when Leader Boehner said this weekend

that he would be willing to look at a plan B in September. Does that

mean that House Republicans will finally begin to join us in changing

the course of the war in Iraq? We'll have to wait and see.