Mr. Speaker, one need look no further than the chaos in

Pakistan or the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan to understand

that troop levels in Iraq cannot be maintained--and that the surge,

which I have always opposed, has done nothing to achieve political

stability.

Today, with this bridge funding vote, Congress signals to the White

House yet again that enough is enough, that the combat mission in Iraq

must end, and that we will force that change.

No one in this chamber questions the courage or commitment of our

brave women and men in uniform or their willingness to tackle

any challenge put before them. But we have sent them on an ill-defined

mission with no apparent end point, and which consumes staggering

amounts of our talent and treasure at the expense of countless other

priorities.

This bill also redresses a glaring loophole in the Military

Commissions Act--a bill I strongly opposed. By requiring that all U.S.

Government agencies and personnel must adhere to interrogation

techniques contained in the Army Field Manual, we send an unmistakable

signal to the rest of the world that the United States--the world's

oldest functioning democracy--does not permit cruel, inhumane and

degrading practices, or torture, and complies fully with Federal law

banning torture and our international obligations.

The Iraq Troop Redeployment Bill is good policy, and long overdue.