Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Virginia, truly a

Virginia gentlemen and a good friend and a leader. I am most grateful.

I join with my colleague from Idaho in saying Senator Lieberman's

statement is one of a true statesman, one we all ought to take to

heart. I commend it and I will make that required reading for anybody

who asks about this issue.

Three quick points. I was asked yesterday by the media why the

drumbeat on Iran. Simple answer: Iran is providing the EFPs, the

explosively formed penetrators that are killing more and more

Americans. We have tried, by diplomatic pressure, to get Iran to stop.

Now we have even caught a leader of the Quds Force, the Iranian elite

special forces unit, that reports directly to the ayatollah. They are

there. The Iranians' special forces are there.

Some say, well, maybe the top leaders don't know. But how many folks

believe your special forces are going to go someplace, have the devices

that only Iran can make, and the top leaders not know anything about

it? That is why the drumbeat on Iran. We ought to take out the Iranian

fighters and stop the weapons coming in.

Secondly, on this resolution, it not only downgrades General Petraeus

and says that although we confirmed you unanimously, we don't believe

in your mission, but it also says to our allies, the neighboring

countries that have been brought in on this new strategy--a new

strategy that General Petraeus is implementing--that they shouldn't

bother to come in and help us stop the deterioration in Iraq, which

could lead to chaos and a takeover, and it also says to the enemy we

are not going to be there.

I am taking an intel trip and will not be here for the vote. I am

strongly opposed to cloture on this. So by being absent, I will deny

those seeking the 60 votes my vote, and I strongly urge my colleagues

who are here to vote no.