Mr. Speaker, I rise as a sponsor of this

important legislation to prohibit the establishment of permanent U.S.

bases in Iraq.

We have passed similar legislation before by a wide margin. The first

time was a few weeks after I questioned General Abizaid in an

appropriations hearing. He could not unequivocally disavow permanent

bases, and so the House stepped in and asserted its prerogative on

foreign policy by prohibiting permanent bases in Iraq.

Now, my colleagues might understandably ask, why are we voting on

this bill again today? The reason is that the Bush administration

continues to stubbornly reject the will of Congress, of the Iraq Study

Group, and of the American people.

Defense Secretary Gates recently stated his goal of ``a long and

enduring presence'' in Iraq. President Bush has stated his vision for a

presence ``as we have in South Korea,'' where U.S. troops remain 50

years after an armistice. That kind of rhetoric suggests that they have

not yet gotten the message, and it seriously damages our cause.

The Iraqi people and the American people need assurance that there is

light at the end of the tunnel, that occupation is not a permanent

state of affairs. So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation

today, and to once again unequivocally state that the U.S. will not

establish permanent bases in Iraq, because this administration and the

world need to understand that America's misadventure in Iraq must and

will come to an end.