Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support H.R. 2929, a bill to prohibit

permanent bases in Iraq, and I thank the gentlewoman from California

(Ms. Lee) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Allen) for their persistent

leadership on this important issue.

The House passed the Responsible Redeployment from Iraq this month to

get our troops out of Iraq by April. The question now is not whether we

will redeploy our troops, but when and how.

This resolution makes it emphatically clear to the Iraqi people and

to President Bush that we do not intend to keep troops in Iraq

indefinitely.

The United States must not be seen as an occupier. Otherwise, our

presence there will be used to recruit insurgents, to keep Iraq

entrenched in violence and to create an even more dangerous environment

for our troops.

This House, too, has already expressed its opposition to permanent

bases, but today, we do it clearly with bipartisan support and send a

very clear statement. I urge all of our colleagues to listen to the

will of the American people, of the Iraqi people, and to support H.R.

2929.