Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2929.

From the beginning of the President's invasion and occupation of

Iraq, he has insisted that the United States has no intention of

permanently occupying that country. I think there is no better way to

reassure both our friends and our adversaries that the United States

does not intend to become an imperial occupier of Iraq than to make

clear that the U.S. will not build permanent military bases there.

The American people are seeking clear assurance that their government

has a plan for leaving Iraq. If the President fails to embrace this

legislation, it would only confirm for many Americans that the

President has no strategy for bringing our troops home and, in fact,

intends to keep them there forever.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I hope the President will

listen to the American people and sign it into law.