Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support

of the H.R. 2929, which I voted for, and which overwhelmingly passed

the House of Representatives. This common-sense legislation limits the

use of funds to establish any military installation or base for the

purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States

Armed Forces in Iraq or to exercise United States economic control over

the oil resources of Iraq.

In December 2006, the bipartisan Iraq Study Group released its

recommendations for U.S. policy in Iraq. Included in those

recommendations were two important provisions--the first advises the

President against seeking permanent military bases in Iraq and the

second encourages the Iraqi Government to take control of their own oil

resources.

Accordingly, H.R. 2929 solidifies those recommendations and sends a

very clear message to the Iraqi people that the United States is not an

occupying force. The perception that the United States plans to keep a

permanent military presence in Iraq and use its oil resources has only

fueled the insurgency and violence against our troops. That has been

exacerbated by President Bush's recent comments that our military

presence in Iraq could extend 50 years into the future. In response,

this legislation puts Congress on record opposing any permanent bases

or attempts to control Iraq's oil revenues and helps take the target

off our troops' backs.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this war. I believe it is long past time to

bring our troops home and end our involvement in this civil war.

Although our withdrawal from Iraq will not happen tomorrow, this

legislation is one way we can help put an end to our involvement today.