Mr. President, today, Senator Hagel, Senator Levin, and I

are submitting a bipartisan resolution that opposes the President's

plan to escalate the war in Iraq.

This resolution says what we and many of our colleagues, Democrats

and Republicans, are against: deepening America's military involvement

in Iraq by escalating our troop presence.

Just as important, it says what we and many of our colleagues are

for: a strategy that can produce a political settlement in Iraq.

That's the only way to stop Shiites and Sunnis from killing each

other and allow our troops to leave Iraq without leaving chaos behind.

Last week, when Secretary of State Rice presented the President's

plan to escalate our troop presence in Iraq to the Foreign Relations

Committee, the reaction from Democrats and Republicans alike ranged

from profound skepticism to outright opposition.

This resolution will give every Senator a chance to say where he or

she stands on the President's plan.

I believe that when a President goes way off course on something as

important as Iraq, the single most effective way to get him to change

course is to demonstrate that his policy has waning or no support--from

both parties.

The more we make Iraq a partisan issue, the more the President is

likely to dig in. The more we show that Americans across the board

don't want to go down the path of escalation, the better our chance to

stop it.

Iraq is not a partisan issue. It's a challenge we must meet as

Americans.

The very first sentence of our resolution says something the three of

us believe profoundly:

This resolution will demonstrate that, right now, the support is not

there for the President's policy in Iraq. The sooner he recognizes that

reality and acts on it, the better off all of us will be.