Mr. President, I just want to let my colleagues know

where I am coming from, along with Senator Lieberman, that amendment

No. 5368, I believe it is, is an amendment offered by Senator Lieberman

and myself that speaks of the surge, the success of the surge, how

vital it was that we turn Iraq around, and the fact that the surge has

worked.

General Petraeus said today in the Washington Post, I believe, that

Iraq is still the central battlefront in the war on terror. Senator

Obama has disagreed with that on numerous occasions, saying it is

Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The truth is, the battle regarding the war on terror is an idea, not

a place, and the fight now is in Iraq. Bin Laden said: Go to the land

of the two rivers. Make sure we win that battle. Bin Laden has always

seen Iraq as an outcome-determinative event. So does General Petraeus.

So does Senator McCain, Senator Graham, and Senator Lieberman.

So the good news is that battle has taken place in Iraq between al-

Qaida, the Iraqi people, and the coalition forces, and we have greatly

diminished al-Qaida. They suffered a mighty blow at the hands of fellow

Muslims who turned on al-Qaida after tasting their agenda. I cannot

think of a more appropriate topic for the Senate to take up than to

comment on what I think is the most historic, successful

counterinsurgency operation in military history, to memorialize that it

has worked, to acknowledge those who sacrificed to make it work, those

who led our men and women in battle. This, to me, is very appropriate

and important. It was a year ago today that General Petraeus testified

about his plan in Iraq, and a year later we see stunning success

militarily, economically, and politically. So I believe with all the

passion I can muster about this topic that the Senate needs to take

this up, discuss it, debate it, and vote on it.

I thank Senator Lieberman for his steadfast leadership over the last

year. I say to the Senator, you, my friend, will go down in history as

being one of the Senators who stood up at a time when the country

needed people to speak out. We turned this war around because of people

like yourself and Senator McCain but mainly because of

the leadership of General Petraeus and the men and women in uniform,

Ambassador Crocker and his team, and the Iraqi people themselves.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.