Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman yielding me time.

This restrictive rule is unfortunate and unnecessary. We have heard from my colleagues today, talking about huge issues and deep concerns. It is unfortunate that one additional casualty in the short-circuiting of this process is that we will not discuss the hidden issue surrounding base closures, and that is the cleanup of the mess the military leaves behind.

I offered a modest amendment that would have at least required that the 17 bases from the 1988 round of base closures be dealt with by the Department of Defense with a framework. But even as we move into a fifth round of base closures, that problem remains unaddressed.

To date, the Pentagon has been dragging its feet and Congress has been missing in action. Due to this unnecessarily restrictive rule, the bill is another lost opportunity to treat communities with closed bases fairly, and for Congress to continue to be absent without leave.