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Hoekstra Pushes Congress to Respond to Al-Qaeda Warning *House Again Debates Iraq While Ignoring Terrorists' Threats*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, today warned that Congress must do more than vote on Iraq bills, it must move quickly to ensure American security from a growing radical jihadist threat.

“Al-Qaeda has repeatedly made their intention to attack us clear, yet Congress is doing nothing to address this threat,” Hoekstra said. “At multiple classified hearings this year, the House Intelligence Committee has heard how the outdated FISA law is interfering with our intelligence effort against al-Qaeda

“Instead of playing politics to appease MoveOn.org, Congress needs to modernize FISA to stop al-Qaeda.”

Hoekstra joined with U.S. Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M., the intelligence committee’s leading authority on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, to support a simple amendment to the law that would exempt electronic surveillance targeted at persons outside the United States from FISA. The amendment would address a specific issue with FISA that has created a loophole for terrorists to conceal their activities.

Republicans are offering the motion as part of today’s debate to emphasize the importance of Congress addressing this critical national security gap during a time of increased radical jihadist activity.

“FISA should be used to protect Americans from international terrorists, not as a screen by radical jihadists to shield their activities,” Hoekstra said. “America’s intelligence community must be several steps faster than the radical jihadists who use the speed of the Internet and modern communications to plan their attacks.

“Now is the time to modernize FISA to help prevent future attacks. Congress must close the terrorist loophole.”

<http://intelligence.house.gov>