



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –December 13, 2007

Contact: Jamal Ware
(202) 225-4121

Hoekstra Votes against Intelligence Bill with Wrong Priorities for America

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, today voted against the fiscal year 2008 Intelligence authorization after Democrats rejected Republican attempts to maximize funding for human intelligence collection and strip politically motivated earmarks from the bill.

The authorization report also maintains a provision requiring the diversion of scarce intelligence resources to conduct an intelligence assessment of the environment at a time when America is confronting military, proliferation and terrorist threats.

“At a time when we need to greatly increase our human intelligence capabilities, this bill prioritizes ‘bugs and bunnies’ and pork barrel spending,” Hoekstra said. “When it comes to intelligence, Congress’ responsibility is national security first, special interests never.”

Hoekstra went on to say that while global climate change may be a national concern, with more than a dozen federal agencies already studying the issue, it is not an issue that requires highly specialized and limited intelligence capabilities.

In addition to politically correct mandates on global climate change, the bill cuts classified human intelligence programs counter to 9/11 Commission recommendations and makes significant cuts to certain, classified initiatives in America’s efforts to counter al-Qaeda and radical jihadist terrorism. It also fails to halt bureaucratic growth in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and funds numerous earmarks, including \$23 million for the National Drug Intelligence Center.

Director of National Intelligence, Adm. Mike McConnell, requested that NDIC be shut down and *U.S. News & World Report* described the center as “rocked by scandal” and in “search for a mission.” The failure to strip earmarks from the bill runs counter to an overwhelmingly bipartisan 249-160 vote in the House to remove such politically directed spending. More than 60 Democrats joined Republicans on Dec. 4 to originally support the measure.

The bill would also apply the unclassified Army Field Manual to all interrogations conducted by the government. This would give al-Qaeda, which already has a manual that trains radical jihadist how to resist when captured, full knowledge of American interrogation techniques.

“Too many details on the counterterrorism programs that have kept America safe since 9/11 have already been illegally leaked,” Hoekstra said. “Congress should not be in the business of voluntarily giving al-Qaeda or any of our adversaries our playbook.”