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Hoekstra Statement on Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi *Terrorist Leader in Iraq Killed in Airstrike*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-MI) released the following statement after Al Qaeda terrorist leader Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi was killed in a bombing raid on Thursday.

“The successful attack against Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi is a significant step forward in the war against radical Islam and its campaign of terror during a week in which progress has already been achieved.

“The elimination of a radical cell in Canada demonstrates how countries are able to target and dismantle radical groups through effective internal policing activity.

“Killing Al-Zarqawi will help to weaken Al Qaeda in Iraq as well as throughout the world by removing a key members of its leadership. U.S. intelligence and military special forces are to be congratulated for their vigilance and persistence to succeed in the effort.

“The focus needs to remain on the goal: defeating radical elements in the war on terror. We need to continue with the strategies of attacking terrorists where they live and operate, weaken their leadership structure and maintain our vigilance at home as we help to build effective governments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“The pending announcement by Iraq Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki in appointing people to fill the final key cabinet positions in the new government furthers the movement toward a strong Iraqi government and a more stable Middle East.

“We need to continue to update and adjust our strategies to face the evolving and fluid threat posed by radical Islam and changing conditions in the field. The steps forward this week signal continuing progress, but the job is far from complete.”