



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 15, 2006

Contact: Jamal D. Ware
(202) 225-4121

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, today led floor debate during part of the House’s historic deliberation on the importance of America’s commitment to fighting and winning the global war on terror.

“No one questions America’s military might; what they question is our resolve,” Hoekstra said. “This debate is really about the future of America—those who believe that we can return to a pre-9/11 mentality and those of us who believe that America’s safety depends upon taking the fight to terrorists and radical Islamists before they attack our homeland.”

Hoekstra, along with other members of the House Intelligence Committee, initiated and framed the House’s debate on H.Res. 861, a resolution “Declaring that the United States will prevail in the Global War on Terror, the struggle to protect freedom from the terrorist adversary.”

Committee members emphasized that the global war against terror and radical Islamists would be long and would require the patience and perseverance of the American people. Members of the Committee also pointed to Osama bin Laden’s own contention that Iraq is a central front in the war, and they warned that radical Islamists are taking advantage of sophisticated technology and the Internet to spread propaganda and promote homegrown terrorism.

“The real failure to connect the dots occurred in the 1990s when our country was under repeated attack, but there was a stand-down of our intelligence and military forces,” Hoekstra said. “In a post-9/11 world, we will not make the same mistake. The war against terror and radical Islam has been joined, and fighting and winning is the challenge of our generation.”

Hoekstra highlighted the fact that radical Islamists view forcing America to abandon Iraq as its opportunity to establish a permanent base for terrorist recruiting, operations planning and financing.

“We are responsible for protecting American safety by denying terrorists the use of Iraq as an operations base,” Hoekstra said. “The Iraqi people should know that as their duly elected government stands up, we will stand with them as we do for all of our allies.”