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Hoekstra Statement on Claimed North Korean Nuclear Weapons Test

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-Michigan), Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, today issued the following statement in response to an underground nuclear test that North Korea claims to have conducted.

“North Korea’s potential nuclear weapons test is another attempt by its erratic leader Kim Jong Il to intimidate the West into negotiating directly with his regime,” Hoekstra said. “His actions will instead further isolate the country from the international community, and we need to continue to work to ensure the stability of the region.

“While not unexpected, if North Korea indeed carried out a nuclear test, it has needlessly and recklessly demonstrated that the world remains a dangerous place. The world community must pursue all diplomatic and economic options as it considers its response to the provocation.”

Hoekstra’s committee reached similar conclusions in its recently released report titled, “Recognizing North Korea as a Strategic Threat: An Intelligence Challenge for the United States.” The report can be access at:

<http://intelligence.house.gov/Media/PDFS/NorthKoreaReport092806.pdf>