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Hoekstra Calls for Bipartisan Summit on North Korea

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, today sent a letter to President George W. Bush calling for a bipartisan summit to discuss the U.S. response to North Korea's announced weapons test.

“The political gamesmanship has to stop,” Hoekstra said. “The security of the United States, our allies and that of the world is at stake. America must reject the partisan divide that is building on this issue and put forward a united front against nuclear proliferation.”

Hoekstra's letter to the president reads in part: “The world, including China, Russia and even non-U.S. allies like Venezuela, has united against North Korea's attempts at proliferation. With this backdrop, a historic opportunity presents itself to stand united as Americans with the rest of the world against the proliferation of nuclear weapons. We cannot let this moment pass.

“Therefore, I am requesting that you convene at the earliest opportunity a meeting in Washington of the bipartisan congressional leadership and appropriate committee chairs for consultations and briefings on this dire security threat and how the United States should address it.”

Hoekstra said he is disappointed by the attempts to blame either President Bush or President Bill Clinton for North Korea's nuclear weapons program. He points out that the erratic actions and outright lies of North Korean President Kim Jong Il's regime have made it difficult for either President to engage North Korea on its nuclear program.

Hoekstra also pointed to the Republican-staff report of the House Intelligence Committee's Policy Subcommittee which warned that a North Korean nuclear test could cause Japan and Taiwan to develop nuclear weapons and that North Korea threatened to transfer nuclear weapons to other states during Six Party Talks in April 2003.

“The threats are too great for this issue to become entangled in the upcoming election,” Hoekstra said. “The world is coming together against North Korea, so must America's leaders.”