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Contact: Courtney A. Littig: 202-225-7690

Vincent Perez: 202-225-4831

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Chairman Reyes Issues Statement Regarding Ambassador Freeman

WASHINGTON (March 10) – *Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Silvestre Reyes of Texas today issued the following statement regarding Ambassador Charles Freeman’s decision to withdraw his name from consideration as Chairman of the National Intelligence Council:*

“Moments ago I spoke with the Director of National Intelligence, who informed me that Ambassador Freeman has removed his name from consideration as Chairman of the National Intelligence Council (NIC).

“I regret that the controversy surrounding his selection as Chairman of the NIC played out so publicly, especially since the Inspector General of the DNI was still examining the claims against Ambassador Freeman.

“At the same time, I am reassured that this situation has underscored the need for unbiased, impartial leadership at all levels in the Intelligence Community. If we have learned any lesson over the past eight years, it is that independent and objective judgment is essential to the security of our Nation.

“Finally, let me say that I look forward to working with Director Blair and his team as we move forward, and I look forward to meeting the next designee for the NIC.”