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Chairman Rogers Says Troop Withdrawal in Afghanistan is the Wrong Move

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Chairman Rogers today released the following statement in response to President Obama's address to the nation on withdrawing troops from Afghanistan.

"I am concerned about the President's plan to begin troop withdrawal in Afghanistan. We are in a very precarious place in Afghanistan right now. It seems the President is trying to find a political solution with a military component to it, when it needs to be the other way around.

"As the troop levels go lower we put more of a burden on the remaining troops, and we increase risk in a number of areas. The most significant risk is to our remaining troops' safety. We also risk letting the Taliban regain ground they lost in the last fighting season, because we will be able to cover less ground. There is also the risk this drawdown will send the wrong message to both the Taliban and our Afghan allies that U.S. commitment to finish the job is wavering.

"The handwringing we are seeing in some corners of Washington is astoundingly similar to the panic we saw in the early stages of the Iraq surge. We have a good strategy in Afghanistan – we just need the political courage here in Washington to see it through."

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