

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 29, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write as Members of Congress joined together in our commitment to find a responsible, bipartisan plan for achieving stability in Iraq and bringing our troops home.

As you may know, earlier this month we introduced legislation to implement the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group (ISG) – also known as the Baker-Hamilton Commission – as a foundation for strategic change in our policy in Iraq. This legislation (H.R. 2574) now has 57 bipartisan cosponsors, and a Senate companion bill. Embodying key Study Group recommendations, including a diplomatic offensive, giving the highest priority to training and equipping Iraqi military and security forces, improving economic reconstruction programs, enhancing budgetary transparency, and setting conditions that can lead to the redeployment of U.S. combat forces, this legislation represents the first truly bipartisan proposal for ending this conflict.

One of the main strengths of the ISG was that it provided an independent and bipartisan assessment of the situation in Iraq at a critical time. We believe that with an assessment due from the Administration – specifically from General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker – in September, this is another critical time for the Congress and the American people to hear again from the ISG's independent and bipartisan voices.

Therefore, we urge you to support the call to reconstitute the Iraq Study Group. Just last week, the House voted 355-69 for an amendment offered by Rep. Christopher Shays to provide \$1 million to the U.S. Institute of Peace for the purposes of reestablishing the ISG. The ISG would focus on evaluating conditions in Iraq one year later, comparing its findings to those of a year ago, and reviewing and updating its recommendations.

As you know, the Foreign Operations appropriations bill – to which the amendment is attached – is unlikely to pass quickly enough for a newly constituted ISG to report in the fall. So, in recognition of the will of Congress as evidenced by strong bipartisan support for ISG legislation in the House and Senate and by last week's House vote to provide funding for the ISG to continue, we urge you to act now to reconvene the ISG.

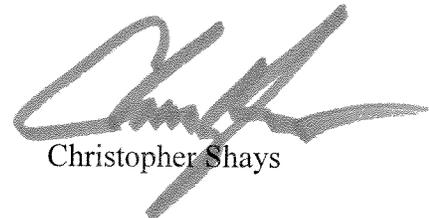
Sincerely,



Mark Udall



Frank Wolf



Christopher Shays



Michael McCaul



Dan Lipinski