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July 21, 2006

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
H-232 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Majority Leader
H-107 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As Congress prepares to welcome Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, I write again today to request that you bring H.J. Res. 90 to the floor for a vote next week to coincide with his historic visit.

Prime Minister Maliki has released his 24-point national reconciliation since I wrote to you last month regarding H.J.Res.90. As expected, the plan included language that leaves the door open to providing amnesty to Iraqi insurgents who have participated in attacks on our troops and citizens. There have been conflicting media reports about the specifics of the proposed reconciliation plan since its release. However, on June 27 Prime Minister Maliki held a meeting with western reporters in which he stated that "there will be no amnesty for those who have killed Americans."

While this clear statement on the issue is certainly a welcome indication of the Prime Minister's position, it is important to recognize that he will still be involved in wider negotiations with members of the Iraqi National Assembly and other organizations in crafting a final reconciliation plan.

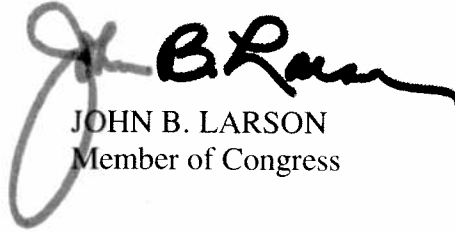
As you well know, our troops continue to face a strong and deadly insurgency on the ground waged by the very people that the new Iraqi government is considering providing amnesty to. I strongly believe that providing such a wide ranging reward now, when nearly 47 percent of Iraqis approve of attacks on American forces, is exactly the wrong message to send to the insurgency and may put our troops in greater danger. Our servicemen and women continue to fight too hard and sacrifice too much to see those that are waging an unceasing campaign of violence against them be rewarded with amnesty.

H.J.Res.90 would declare that the United States opposes efforts by the Government of Iraq to grant amnesty to persons known to have attacked, kidnapped, wounded, or killed members of the Armed Forces or citizens of the United States. By passing this resolution next week during the Prime Minister's visit, we can send a clear

and unequivocal message that our nation stands with him in opposing amnesty for those who have killed Americans. This would be a simple, yet resounding, message for both our troops and the Iraqi people.

I appreciate your urgent consideration of this request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. B. Larson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning of the "J" and a long, sweeping tail for the "L".

JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress