



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 9, 2008

www.house.gov/shuster

Contact: Jeff Urbanchuk, Press Secretary
(202) 225-2431
(202) 593-1040 cell
(202) 225-2486 fax
jg.urbanchuk@mail.house.gov

Shuster Statement on Petraeus, Crocker Testimony on Progress in Iraq

Washington, D.C. –**Congressman Bill Shuster** released the following statement on today’s testimony by General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker in the House Armed Services Committee on progress in Iraq:

“General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker gave us a very frank assessment of the situation in Iraq. The surge has made progress that is real and measurable; but it is also fragile and reversible. We need to persist because a failed Iraqi state will embolden our enemies and give them the confidence to attack our interests abroad, and attack us here at home.

Despite the General’s best efforts, the Democrats continue to recklessly disregard the progress the troop surge has made. The Democrats are committed to putting politics ahead of our military and strategic interests by advocating a precipitous withdrawal of our troops from Iraq.

The arbitrary withdrawal of American troops would offer al-Qaeda an invitation to fill the void our absence would create. This would lead to a power vacuum like the one that allowed the Taliban to take control of Afghanistan after the Soviets pulled-out in the 1980’s. It would bolster Iran’s influence in the region and increase sectarian tension. Iraq would become the focal point of competing interests, devolving into another Lebanon where 25 years of strife still continues.

Congress must take General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker at their word. Now is not the time to squander the gains we have made.”

###