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King Statement on Legislation to Affirm Support for President Obama's Strategy in Afghanistan and Pakistan

Washington, D.C. (Wednesday, May 20, 2009)—U.S. Rep. Peter T. King (R-NY), Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, released the following statement today on legislation that he and other House Republicans introduced to authorize President Obama's strategy in Afghanistan and Pakistan:

"These bills affirm House Republican support for President Obama's Afghanistan-Pakistan Strategy and ensure that he has the support he needs from the Congress. The greatest threat to our homeland security emanates from the tribal areas along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, and I believe President Obama's strategy takes the right steps to root out and destroy al Qaeda terrorists. The President has my full support in this mission, and I look forward to working with him to defeat al Qaeda and protect our homeland."

NOTE: Rep. King joined Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH), Republican Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA), Republican Conference Chairman Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN), as well as Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Rep. John McHugh (R-NY), Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services, Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-MI), Ranking Member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA), Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee in introducing the two straightforward bills – the "U.S.-Afghanistan Security and Stability Act" and the "U.S.-Pakistan Security and Stability Act" -- to authorize the President's strategy on Afghanistan and Pakistan. Specifically, the legislation:

- Reiterates support for the President's strategy and highlights the national security interests in the strategy's success in each country;
- Requires the President submit his implementation plan for his strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan;
- Fully authorizes the funding the President requested for each country; and
- Sets specific briefing and notification requirements.