Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 4, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner:

We ask that you, our leaders, work together to put an end to the political in-fighting over the war in Iraq and allow the House to unite behind a bipartisan strategy to stabilize the country and bring our troops home.

Since 2003, over 3,700 American military personnel have been killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom and more than 25,000 have been injured. We have also spent over $400 billion in the course of this conflict. It is clear that the American people want a straightforward plan regarding our involvement and long-term interests in the region.

Next week, General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker will submit a very important report to Congress regarding efforts to quell violence and reach political compromise in Iraq. While we are hopeful that their report will show progress, we should not wait any longer to come together in support of a responsible post-surge strategy to safely bring our troops home to their families.

It is absolutely crucial that we stabilize Iraq and transition the combat mission to the Iraqis. Any future legislative proposals considered in the House must reflect a bipartisan approach to this conflict. We ask that you join us in committing to a truly bipartisan dialogue on this issue immediately.

Sincerely,

Rep. Michael N. Castle (R-DE)

Rep. John Tanner (D-TN)

Rep. Phil English (R-PA)

Rep. Scott Garrett (R-NJ)

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Rep. Tim Mahoney (D-FL)

Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-PA)

Rep. Allen Boyd (D-FL)

Rep. Charles W. Dent (R-PA)

Rep. Robert A. Brady (D-PA)

Rep. Thomas E. Petri (R-WI)

Rep. Dennis A. Cardoza (D-CA)