Carolyn Ballard
494 John Road
Rochester, MI 48307

The Honorable John P. Murtha
Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense
Room H-149 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Time to stop funding the war!

Dear Chairman Murtha,

I very strongly urge you to draft a new supplemental appropriations bill that will direct the president to immediately begin the orderly removal of all U.S troops from Iraq and complete this process as quickly and safely as possible.

The Iraq War has taken the lives of over 4,000 U.S. soldiers and caused the death and displacement of millions of Iraqis. Congress has already approved $500 billion for the war in direct costs. Our nation faces trillions in additional costs to care for veterans' injuries suffered in the course of this conflict, and for interest on the massive debt we are accumulating to finance the war.. This waste of federal dollars comes at a time when our nation faces an economic recession. The war has hollowed out our military, diverted resources from the battle against al Qaeda and from homeland security, and deeply damaged our reputation abroad.

The President has made clear his intention to "stay the course" in Iraq while deepening the U.S. military commitment for an indefinite time and attempting to tie the hands of the next President.

Mr. Chairman, it is past time to bring the Iraq war to an end. The costs are too great to allow it to continue indefinitely. The best course of action in the upcoming supplemental appropriations bill is to provide funding only for the safe and timely redeployment of U.S. troops out of Iraq and end the occupation. Also, no funds should be made available for any formal U.S.-Iraq agreement based upon the Bush-Maliki "Declaration of Principles" unless the agreement is approved by Congress and the Iraqi parliament.

I appreciate your continued leadership in the effort to end the war in Iraq and bring our troops home and I admire your courage and tenacity in the face of attacks and criticisms. Please continue to demonstrate your patriotism and dedication to the genuine security of our nation by acting promptly to end the debacle in Iraq and bring our men and women in uniform home.

Most sincerely, Carolyn Ballard

Carolyn Ballard

Copy to:
Representative Joseph Knollenberg
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