

Rep. Ellen Tauscher Responds to President's State of the Union Address

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Tauscher to Bush: "Success in Iraq Won't Happen with a Failed Policy"

Below is a statement by Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D, Calif.-10), Chairman of the House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee.

"Tonight the President echoed the Democratic Majority's desire to work in a bipartisan manner in pursuit of policies that promote both economic and national security. Tonight was about rhetoric; in the days to come it will be about action.

"The President says he wants to secure a victory in Iraq — but he refuses to understand that success can't come from repeated failure. Tonight he is once again promoting a plan that has consistently failed, yet he continues to ask us to trust him. The President talks about winning the War on Terror but fails to acknowledge that Iraq was a war of choice that expanded the training ground for al Qaeda and insurgents. Today, our young men and women are fighting and dying in Iraq's civil war.

“Saying we must not fail is not the same as ensuring we will not fail. Adding additional troops in Iraq without requiring the Iraqis to step up their efforts is a recipe for disaster. It is deeply disturbing to know that the President ignored the advice of his military commanders and the Iraqi Prime Minister, neither of whom think more American troops is the solution.

“Trust is no longer an option, we need to see action, and the only actions I find acceptable are those that get our troops home sooner and safer. The President has recklessly dug us into a hole, and he won’t stop digging. My colleagues and I heard the call of the American people, and we want the President to change course and deliver the changes they want, not the same failed policies he continues to advocate.”

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