

## Tauscher Questions General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker about Failed Iraq Policy

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Rep. Ellen Tauscher Questions General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker about Failed Iraq Policy; Demands They Deliver a Plan for Troop Redeployment that the American People Can Support

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Rep. Ellen Tauscher, Chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, took this opportunity to thank the two men and their families for their service to the nation but wasted little time before emphasizing to them dwindling support among the American people for the current mission in Iraq. Citing a CBS News / New York Times Poll Rep. Tauscher told the Committee that 62% of Americans now think we should have stayed out of Iraq in the first place and 65% believe that President Bush is mishandling current operations.

"After 4,000 plus of our finest killed and projections of nearly \$2 trillion to be borrowed and spent and now hearing today that those responsible for ensuring stability recommend maintaining over 130,000 troops indefinitely, I am becoming more and more dismayed that the accountability the American people demand is being ignored."

Rep. Tauscher asked General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker how they would execute a plan to draw down troops both militarily and diplomatically under a new administration. Both responded that it was too premature to start preparing for that particular

scenario.

"President Bush is looking for any shred of success to justify the last seven years of failed policies. The American military is doing all of the heavy lifting while the Iraq government continues to drag its feet. Metrics for success continue to shift regardless of conditions on the ground, leaving the American people increasingly frustrated with an administration that continues headlong in Iraq regardless of the human and financial cost." said Rep. Ellen Tauscher. "The American people are paying for this war and they demand accountability, the idea of endless expenses in Iraq eating up our finite resources while at home our economy is slumping does not sit well with me or my constituents. The only plan I can accept is one that will keep the security gains, fix the readiness problems of the military and cut U.S. costs in Iraq."