

September 10, 2007

Congressman Akin Issues Statement Regarding Testimony by
General Petraeus before the House Armed Services Committee

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), ranking member of the House Armed Services subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations issued the following statement regarding General Petraeus testifying before the House Armed Services Committee today.

"General Petraeus is a top military leader with undeniable integrity and competency and he will offer a perspective replete with ground truth that will prove invaluable as we chart the course forward.

"After hearing much expert testimony on Iraq as the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee on Oversight and Investigations I believe that we do not have the option of precipitous withdrawal or retreat. The only real option is eventual success. There is no way to lose effectively, and the cost of victory is far less than that of defeat.

"Although some of the objectives and benchmarks relative to the central Iraqi government have proven difficult to obtain, I believe our troops are making progress when it comes to provinces and towns outside of the central government in Baghdad.

"It could be that given the complexity and division in Iraq that the real progress will be made on a local level. I look forward to hearing General Petraeus' assessment not only about the state of Iraq's central government, but progress being made on the provincial level."