

January 12, 2007

Dear Friend:

This week President George W. Bush addressed the nation to present his plan to escalate the number of troops in Iraq.

It is my firm belief that escalating our involvement in the war and the number of American troops on the ground will not contribute to progress in Iraq and sends precisely the wrong message to the Iraqis. The Iraqi government quickly must take greater responsibility for their own security.

Sadly, our troops are today caught in the midst of a civil war. Yet this Administration refuses to look to the only acceptable solution remaining, which is the immediate redeployment of our troops from Iraq.

It is time for the Administration to face the reality of what is occurring in Iraq: Over 3,000 of our troops have been killed, countless others injured, all with no end to the bloody war in sight.

As I witnessed first hand on my trip to Iraq last year, the situation in the country is one that can no longer be solved militarily and must be solved politically. General John Abizaid and General George Casey, along with other military officials, have rejected the idea of a troop increase in Iraq. A majority of Americans also have come to the realization that we need a new direction in Iraq.

Make no mistake, I have the utmost confidence in our men and women in uniform and their well-being is our top priority. It is in their and our nation's best interest that we begin responsible redeployment of our troops from Iraq immediately.

For more information on this or any federal issue, please visit my website at www.tomudall.house.gov.

Very Truly Yours,

Tom Udall
Member of Congress