

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 11, 2007

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

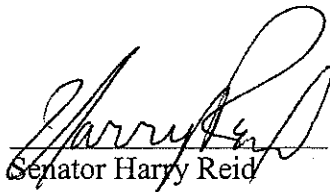
As the House and Senate continue their work to produce an emergency supplemental spending bill, the escalating violence in Iraq reinforces the critical importance that we work together to produce legislation that both fully funds the troops and provides them a real strategy for success. That is why we were so disappointed yesterday to hear that you are not willing to engage in meaningful discussions with the Congress about the path forward in Iraq.

Despite your comments, we would like to renew our March 28th invitation to you to work with us to produce legislation that both your Administration and a bipartisan majority in the Congress can support. Rather than wait until next week to meet as you proposed, we would like to begin this dialogue now. Therefore, we respectfully request that you consider coming to Capitol Hill this Friday to meet with Democratic and Republican members of the United States Senate in an effort to begin bridging the differences between your Iraq policy and that supported by the Congress late last month.

As you know, Mr. President, an overwhelming and growing majority of the American people share a common view about the situation in Iraq; specifically they believe the current path in Iraq is unsustainable and a change of course is needed immediately. The latest round of Guard and Reserve call-ups, the decision to extend tours of duty for thousands of troops already deployed, and the disturbing spike in U.S. casualties nine weeks into your escalation policy all serve to reinforce the American public's view that we urgently need a change of policy in Iraq.

Clearly what is happening in Iraq is critically important to our troops and our security. As members of co-equal branches of government, we believe we both have an obligation to meet without any preconditions and attempt to resolve our differences over your Iraq policy. That is why your current posture that the only option for Congress is to continue to rubberstamp your Iraq policy runs contrary to the views of the American people and is inconsistent with our shared constitutional obligations. We hope you agree and accept our invitation to come to Capitol Hill this Friday to begin this important dialogue.

Sincerely



Senator Harry Reid



Senator Richard Durbin



Senator Chuck Schumer



Senator Patty Murray