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Hensarling Statement on Testimony of General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Chairman of the Republican Study Committee, issued the following statement today as General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker testified before the House Armed Services and Foreign Affairs Committees:

“On a day when I hoped that partisanship would be put aside, unfortunately the Democrat leadership stood beside MoveOn who disgracefully attacked General Petraeus this morning in the *New York Times*. It is nonsensical for Democrats in Congress to demand that General Petraeus travel to Washington to deliver a report, only to spend a week attacking his credibility without even allowing him the opportunity to speak. If our military and our nation is to achieve success, the political motives and dangerous spin must stop, no matter what opinion you hold on the U.S. effort in Iraq.

“While there is no doubt that mistakes were made in Iraq, today General Petraeus made clear that there are reasons for cautious optimism. General Petraeus should be credited for devising a plan that has enabled our troops to provide a more secure environment in Iraq.

“It is clear that as the situation in Iraq continues to become more secure, the Iraqi government must make strides in achieving the political reconciliation that is necessary for future stability. That said, a precipitous withdrawal from Iraq would eliminate the gains of the last several months and send that nation and the Middle East into a spiraling into a completely unstable environment, which would put the United States and our allies in a far more dangerous position.

“We all want to bring the men and women of our military home as soon as possible, and I believe the best way to achieve that goal is to build upon the positive developments detailed today.”

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Congressman Jeb Hensarling is Chairman of the Republican Study Committee (RSC).

