



CENTER FOR THE STUDY
OF THE PRESIDENCY

IRAQ STUDY GROUP

October 20, 2006

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
Hart Senate Office Building
Suite 112
Washington, DC 20512-0505

Dear Senator Boxer:

Thank you for your letter of October 17 to me as co-chair of the Iraq Study Group, with a copy to our other co-chair Lee Hamilton. Contrary to the suggestion in the fourth paragraph in your letter, the Iraq Study Group has not made judgments as to what it might or might not recommend with respect to the situation in Iraq. Both of us have said, and have been quoted as saying publicly, that the Iraq Study Group has not ruled anything in or anything out. Indeed, the Iraq Study Group has yet to produce and discuss a full draft of our report and recommendations.

We share your deep concern about this critical challenge before our nation, and we are working expeditiously to produce our report. All ten members of the Iraq Study Group are committed to taking the time to produce the best report possible, and to seeking a bipartisan consensus for moving forward, so that our recommendations might be embraced by both Republicans and Democrats. Only if they are so embraced can they benefit our country.

With regard to the political calendar, were we to rush and release something two weeks before the elections, our ability to seek a consensus for the implementation of our recommendations would be greatly compromised by the heat of the political moment. We are determined to take the time necessary to do the job right, just as we are determined to seek a bipartisan way forward.

The Honorable Barbara Boxer

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Thank you for writing and for your interest in, and hopefully your continuing support of, the work of the Iraq Study Group.

Sincerely yours,



James A. Baker, III
Co-Chair



Lee H. Hamilton
Co-Chair