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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 18, 2005

LARSON DECRIES SHAM REPUBLICAN RESOLUTION FOR WITHDRAWAL AS CHEAP, POLITICAL STUNT

WASHINGTON, DC ♦ US Representative John B. Larson (CT-1) today denounced the vote on the Hunter Resolution (H.Res.571) as a political stunt designed to silence critics and avoid a real debate on Iraq.

♦Regardless of whether you support this war or not, one thing is clear: when a member of this body as distinguished and respected as Mr. Murtha speaks up, it is wise to listen.

♦However, rather than confronting his plan head on, the administration and the Republicans leadership has shot back with nothing but personal attacks and inflammatory rhetoric. They have gone after a 73-year-old decorated Vietnam veteran, impugned his motives, and attacked his character. These attacks on Mr. Murtha are the most politicized and shameful I have seen during my time in public service.

♦The swiftness and intensity of the attacks against him demonstrate that his words have resonated with the American people ♦much to the concern of this administration and the Republican leaders of this Congress.

♦The Hunter resolution is nothing less than a cheap caricature of the serious concerns that many in our nation hold about the course of the war. Instead, we should be having a real and meaningful debate on our mission in Iraq and a plan that brings our troops home safely, securely and soon. Our troops and our nation deserve nothing less.

◆The administration and the Republican leadership can attack their critics and hide behind their rhetoric, but in the end the truth will prevail.◆

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