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**CONGRESSMAN LARSON STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S AFGHANISTAN SPEECH**

*Washington, DC* – Congressman John B. Larson (*CT-01*), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, released the following statement after President Obama's speech on the path forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

**"I agree with the President's goal to bring our troops home in 18 months. I commend him for laying out the end game and leveling with our troops and the American and Afghan people. I remain skeptical on the impact of a troop surge and the commitment of the strategic partners in the region to achieve the President's objectives. I will continue to review the plan and all of its implications, including how it is paid for."**