

LARSON STATEMENT ON HOUSE PASSAGE OF BAN ON PERMANENT BASES IN IRAQ

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WASHINGTON – U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-1), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, today released the following statement on legislation to prohibit the establishment of permanent military bases in Iraq. Larson voted in favor of the bill (H.R. 2929), which passed the House by a vote of 399 to 24.

Larson stated: "Today's vote marks another step towards the eventual goal of withdrawing our troops from Iraq. Declaring that America will not have a permanent military presence in Iraq is good for the Iraqi people and government, who have consistently indicated that they do not want a U.S. presence. By taking the American face off what we now know to be a disastrous invasion, we protect the safety of our troops and emphasize the need for strategic withdrawal.

"Two weeks ago, the House voted to begin redeploying troops and we will keep bringing up legislation to drive home the message to the President: the American people want a new direction in Iraq."

H.R. 2929 states that it is the policy of the United States not to establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing a permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq. It also declares that it is United States policy not to exercise U.S. control of Iraqi oil resources. The bill also prohibits the use of any funds provided by any law from being used to carry out any policy that contradicts these statements of policy.

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