

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Wally Herger today voted in favor of H.R. 2206, a wartime spending measure that funds the ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan without establishing timetables for the withdrawal of U.S. troops. It also provides funding for a one-year extension of the Secure Rural Schools program (of which approximately \$25 million will go to counties in the Second Congressional District), \$12 million for emergency drug enforcement activities on Forest Service lands, and \$500 million in additional funding to fight wildfires. Herger made the following statement regarding his support for the bill:

"The House of Representatives has acted responsibly by providing our troops with the resources they need to prosecute their missions, without signaling to al Qaeda and other extremists that U.S. forces will leave Iraq on an arbitrary and publicized timetable," Herger stated. "H.R. 2206 respects the expertise of General Petraeus and recognizes that Congress should not tie his hands. Simply put, it funds our troops without micromanaging their commanders.

"The measure also presents a clear message to the Iraqi government that we expect them to move swiftly with political and economic reforms that are critical to reconciling the Iraqi people," continued Herger. "It recognizes that improving security and bolstering trust among Iraqis are both essential to stabilizing Iraq. While acknowledging the continuing importance of U.S. troops, it makes it clear that the Iraqi people are ultimately responsible for their country's future."

Herger added, "I'm very pleased that this measure provides funding for the Secure Rural Schools program. Our counties in Northern California rely heavily on this program to provide essential local services, and were facing major budget shortfalls and painful layoffs. While this legislation meets a critical need in the short-term, I will continue to work to reauthorize the program for five years and ensure that the federal government fulfills its longstanding promise to rural communities.

"Additionally, the legislation provides funding to help the Forest Service combat drug cartels growing marijuana in U.S. National Forests, and to help fight wildfires. Both of these are important public safety concerns in Northern California. The additional funding will help to confront them effectively," concluded Herger.

The Senate is expected to pass H.R. 2206 and the President has indicated that he'll sign it into law.