

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Wally Herger today voted against H.R. 2082, which authorizes funding for our nation's intelligence agencies. The measure includes cuts in certain intelligence programs and would require that the intelligence community complete a National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) to determine the possible impacts of climate change. Herger made the following comments regarding his concerns about the measure:

"Our nation's intelligence community plays an essential role in obtaining sensitive information from our enemies and protecting Americans," Herger stated. "That is why I am deeply concerned that the House intelligence bill includes major cuts in critical intelligence operations. Substantial cuts initiated by the previous Administration degraded our intelligence capabilities and left us unprepared for the September 11 terrorist attacks. We should not cut important intelligence programs again.

"The House bill would also divert some of our limited intelligence assets away from tracking our enemies by mandating that intelligence agencies conduct an extensive analysis of the impact of global warming. Other federal agencies are already analyzing this issue. Requiring the intelligence community to devote significant resources and time to developing another report on a matter unrelated to their core mission could undermine their ability to collect meaningful intelligence and does nothing to bolster the security of Americans."

Herger concluded, "Acquiring and assessing intelligence is a challenging endeavor, but one at which our nation must excel. Congress should not do anything that distracts our intelligence community from effectively performing their mission. I strongly believe that this flawed and short-sighted bill must be substantially improved to deserve the President's signature."