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## GOP group holds fire on Inglis over Iraq vote *Congressman escapes critical resolution, for now*

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U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis may have dodged a bullet tonight when the Greenville County Republican Party's executive committee met and made no resolution to criticize him for a February vote with the House Democratic majority.

But the possibility of a resolution rebuking Inglis for breaking with his party on the nonbinding vote against President Bush's proposed troop surge still exists, said Doug Wavle, the county's state executive committeeman.

Wavle said that at least one such resolution emerged from last month's precinct meetings and could be raised at the April 21 party convention.

Rick Beltram, the Spartanburg party chairman, said no similar resolution would be introduced in Spartanburg.

**Advertisement** "We think that all he did was embarrass the president and we're not going to do the same thing to embarrass him. We've got to be consistent. If we don't want people to be publicly embarrassed, we don't do it against Bob either," Beltram said.

"But there are people in Spartanburg interested in taking a whack at it," he added.

Inglis addressed the committee briefly, explaining that his vote was intended to send a message to the Iraqi government to hasten their efforts to provide security and stability.

Afterward, he told *The Greenville News* that with subsequent votes on other Iraq-related issues occur, those who were disappointed with his earlier vote "will become more satisfied as they realize I'm doing what I said I'd do, that is, oppose timetables for withdrawal and oppose cutoff of funding."

Inglis was one of 17 Republicans who sided with the Democratic majority's February resolution

At the time, Inglis said he wanted to send a message to the Iraqi leadership that time was running short for them to meet security and quality of life obligations to their own people. He has since proposed a series of "success checkpoints" for measuring progress, a form of timetable that the White House has steadfastly rejected.


Inglis has acknowledged "very strong opposition" to his vote from around the district.

Days after the vote, Inglis was verbally roasted by irate constituents at his "Let's Talk" luncheon in Greenville.

It has stirred talk of 2008 primary opposition in the overwhelmingly Republican district.

State Rep. Harry Cato, R-Travelers Rest, and Mark Kingsbury, a Greenville County Council member, have expressed interest. Rep. Scott Talley, R-Spartanburg, also figures in speculation.

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